

Jordan Times

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Jordan, Iraq to meet in soccer finals

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Wednesday defeated Congo 2-1 in the semifinals of the Jordan International Soccer Championship. Jordan's two goals were scored by Jafar Tadeo and Ahmad Abdul Qader. In the other semifinal match, held at Al Hassan Stadium in Irbid, Iraq beat Moldova 1-0. Iraq's goal was scored by Habib Jaafar. Jordan and Iraq will meet in the championship finals on Friday. Moldova will play Congo for the third place. The championship, which started on Aug. 16, is organized by the Jordan Soccer Federation on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the throne. Eight teams from Africa, Asia and Europe participated in the tournament. The teams played in two groups. Jordan came first in Group A followed by Moldova, while Iraq topped Group B followed by Congo.

'PLO has new lead in Bseiso killing'

TUNIS (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is investigating a new lead in the killing of Atef Bseiso, the number two in its security services, involving a former Tunisian security chief, a Tunisian daily reported Wednesday. The Arabic daily Al Shourouk, reported to be close both to the Tunisian government and the PLO, reported that former Tunisian security chief Ahmad Bannour gave details to Israel about Mr. Bseiso's trip to France in June. Two unidentified gunmen shot Mr. Bseiso dead outside his Paris hotel on June 8. Quoting Palestinian sources, Al Shourouk said the PLO was conducting its inquiries on the "Bannour lead." It said inquiries revealed that Mr. Bseiso spoke to Mr. Bannour by telephone from Germany shortly before leaving for Paris. Palestinian sources said at the time Mr. Bseiso went to France to discuss the safety of Tunisians there with French security officials. Mr. Bannour was chief of Tunisian security in the mid-1980s and in this position had frequent contacts with Mr. Bseiso and PLO security officials in Tunis, where the PLO are based. He has lived in France since 1986 and the Tunisian press has often depicted him as an opponent of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and as having contacts with exiled Tunisian Muslim fundamentalists.

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Israel, U.S. conduct Patriot test

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli and U.S. forces conducted a joint test of Patriot missiles last week as an allied confrontation with Iraq appeared possible, an American official confirmed Wednesday. U.S. embassy spokesman Carl Chan, confirming Israeli newspaper reports, said "a cooperative test was done on the Patriot system." But he said no missiles were fired during the simulated operation. Since last year's Gulf war, U.S. soldiers have been training Israeli officers on the Patriot system. Israel still has two Patriot batteries given to it by the United States shortly before the war, the Israeli daily Hadasot said.

Morocco says Sahara polls will go ahead

RABAT (R) — Morocco has told the United Nations it will hold general elections in Western Sahara this year whether or not the United Nations stages a self-determination referendum in the former Spanish colony. In a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, Foreign Minister Abdul Latif Filali said the elections "cannot be linked in any way to the projected referendum under the United Nations settlement plan." He said there was no possible link because "the fundamentally different nature and objectives of the two consultations."

Mistrial declared in Iran-contra case

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge declared a mistrial Wednesday in the Iran-contra cover-up case of former U.S. spy-master Clair George after the jury said it was hopelessly deadlocked. U.S. District Judge Royce C. Lamberth granted defense lawyer Richard Hibbey's request for a mistrial. "I regret to inform you that we the jury are unable to reach a unanimous verdict on any count 1 to 9," said a note from jury foreman Steven Kirk, which Mr. Lamberth read in the courtroom. Mr. George, 62, showed no emotion.

13 killed in Yemeni clashes

SANAA (R) — Thirteen people including 10 policemen were killed in armed clashes between the security forces and the Fagra tribe in northeastern Yemen, an Interior Ministry source said Wednesday. The contingent of police had gone to the Marib Area, 120 kilometres east of Sanaa to restore order after fighting between the Fagra and the Sayyid tribe, he said. They had asked each tribe to hand over 10 men for questioning. The Sayyid complied but when the police went to Fagra territory, gunmen shot dead the major in command. Nine policemen and three tribesmen were killed and 11 policemen wounded in the fighting that followed, he said. Some houses were damaged or destroyed.

U.N. resumes flights to besieged Sudan city

NAIROBI (R) — The United Nations resumed mercy flights to the besieged southern Sudanese capital Juba on Tuesday, two days after rebel shells exploded near a plane delivering food to 300,000 hungry civilians, an official said. An Ilyushin 76 cargo plane of the Russian airline Aeroflot left for Juba from Entebbe, Uganda's main airport, carrying 40 tonnes of maize. "The only way in is by air... we'll fly as much food as we can for as long as we can," Paul Mitchell, spokesman for the U.N. World Food Programme (WFP), told Reuters in Nairobi.

Egypt frees penitent militant leader

ASSIUT, Egypt (R) — Egyptian authorities have released a Muslim militant leader who publicly renounced violence and said he was afraid of vengeance from his former colleagues in the outlawed Islamic Group. Khaled Saad Abdul Malik, 28, a primary school teacher and former leader of Islamic Group militants in the southern town of Dayrat, was freed five days after surrendering under an amnesty.

Bush announces 'no-fly' zone in Iraq

Combined agency dispatches

U.S. PRESIDENT George Bush announced Wednesday that Washington and its allies were establishing a "no-fly" zone in southern Iraq to seek Baghdad's compliance with the terms of the Gulf war cease-fire accord. "The United States and its coalition partners have today informed the Iraqi government that, 24 hours from now, coalition aircraft, including those of the United States, will begin flying surveillance missions in southern Iraq, south of 32 degrees north latitude, to monitor the situation there," Mr. Bush said in an appearance in the White House. "The coalition is also informing Iraq's government that in order to facilitate these monitoring efforts it is establishing a no-fly zone for all Iraqi fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft. These new prohibitions will also go into effect in 24 hours over the same area. "It will remain in effect until the coalition determines it is no longer required." He said the action, similar to an allied effort in the north of Iraq, had been precipitated by reports of Iraq's "brutality" against rebellious Iraqi citizens, including air attacks on Shi'ites in the south. Although Mr. Bush did not get into specifics, the "no-fly" zone over Kurdish areas has been backed up by explicit allied warn-

ings to Baghdad that its planes risk being shot down if they enter the exclusion area. It was widely assumed the same shoot-down rules would apply in the south. Iraq's government refrained from immediate comment after Mr. Bush's official declaration. At Baghdad's press centre, junior Information Ministry officials watching international television with foreign journalists shook their heads as Mr. Bush spoke, but refused to make any comment. One said the government might issue a statement "tonight or tomorrow." Earlier Wednesday, Iraqi government officials and newspapers reiterated assertions that the exclusion zone was aimed at partitioning Iraq. "The new move is aimed at disintegrating Iraq along sectarian and ethnic lines," the English-language Baghdad Observer said Wednesday. "The Iraqi people... with all its groups and walks of life are united under the banner of the struggle leader Saddam Hussein and will resist it," a senior official said in a letter sent Wednesday to political parties in non-aligned nations. Abdul Ghani Abdul Ghafoor, a member of the ruling Baath Party's regional command, urged them to oppose the allied plan, which he described as "a precedent that threatens not only Iraq but all the developing countries."

In Britain, the government announced that six Royal Air Force Tornados would leave Thursday for Dohran, Saudi Arabia, to help set up the protective aerial umbrella. France is also expected to commit a squadron of fighter jets. The U.S. State Department said Tuesday that Iraq had essentially moved all its fixed-wing aircraft from the south, although it still had some helicopters based there. U.S. Ambassador Alexander Watson, the deputy U.S. delegate to the United Nations, was joined by the envoys of Russia, France and Britain in delivering the warning to Abdul Al Amir Al Anbari of Iraq at the U.N. "We've made a communication to the Iraqi ambassador here about a 'no-fly' zone in the south of Iraq," Sir David Hamay, Britain's envoy, told reporters outside the French U.N. mission, where the meeting was held. "The four governments made this communication to the government of Iraq and they will now be considering it," Mr. Hamay said, adding: "It comes into effect within 24 hours." Mr. Anbari, in turn, gave the four diplomats a message from Baghdad. Russia's U.N. ambassador associated himself with the new ban when the three Western en-

World threatens Serbia; Sarajevo burns

LONDON (Agencies) — The world's major powers threatened Serbia with tougher sanctions and diplomatic isolation as they started a peace conference on Wednesday in a supreme effort to halt the year-old Yugoslav civil war. At the talks convened in London, Sarajevo burned Wednesday, targeted by the fiercest Serb artillery bombardment in weeks. Hundreds of rockets and mortar shells were fired from encircling Serb positions, and multi-tonne fired heavy machine guns across the capital for a second day. The Bosnian Ministry of Health said 14 people had died and 126 were wounded in Sarajevo during the previous 24 hours. Serb artillerymen and mostly Muslim defenders of the Bosnian capital halted their duel for several hours after midnight, but resumed their battle at daybreak. The main public library was ablaze, as were the medieval Turkish baths in the Muslim quarter and a row of 17th century houses. About 155,000 rare or old books had been moved to the library's basement and were thought to be safe. Troops also battled Serb fighters to the north, south and west of Sarajevo. Independent radio news said Serb forces were attacking government positions at a bridge within the city, just south of the Holiday Inn. Bosnia's Muslim-led government had claimed some successes Tuesday in its drive to break the Serb siege, but a U.N. official said it appeared the offensive was sputtering. At least 8,000 people have been killed in the fighting and more than one million are homeless. In a separate tally, U.S. Senate investigators say up to 35,000 have died. The peace conference is the largest international forum convened so far to seek an end to fighting in Bosnia and ease tensions in neighbouring republics. "In this room are people who can stop this war," British Prime Minister John Major said as he opened the conference. "I don't

Government refuses to delay Lebanon polls

BEIRUT (Agencies) — President Elias Hrawi's government refused Wednesday to postpone controversial general elections despite resignation threats by three Christian ministers. The Christians want to postpone the voting, the first in 20 years, to prevent pro-Iranian Shiite Muslim fundamentalists from achieving more gains in the process, which started Sunday. "The elections will proceed as scheduled," Information Minister Michel Samaha told reporters after a two-hour cabinet meeting at Mr. Hrawi's residence in Beirut. "The president and Prime Minister Rashid Solh will hold more consultations and if they find out that the idea of postponement was accepted, an extraordinary government session will be called and we'll meet," Mr. Samaha added without further elaboration. He refused to set a deadline or clarify how Mr. Hrawi and Solh would consult about demands for a postponement. Maronite Christian Foreign Minister Faris Bouez, who threatened on Tuesday to resign if the cabinet went ahead with the polls, boycotted the session and sat in a separate room at the presidential residence in west Beirut during the cabinet meeting. Parliamentary elections were put on hold by the 1975-90 civil war. The voting so far has been torn by the same sectarian strife that caused the war, as well as charges of rampant ballot fraud. Four Sunni Muslim candidates for seats in Beirut, scheduled for next Sunday, withdrew to protest the "chaos and fraud" in the eastern Bekaa Valley and north Lebanon. That makes seven Sunni Mus-

lim candidates who have joined the right-wing Christian opposition of the elections. Official returns of Sunday's voting have not been announced. That sparked suspicions of fraud in favour of pro-government candidates after their defeat by representatives of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah in the Bekaa Valley. Hizbollah, according to unofficial returns, won four seats for its Shiite candidates in the Bekaa's Baalbek-Hermel constituency. Four others aligned with Hizbollah also won seats while pro-government candidates won only seven of 23 seats in the Bekaa. Mr. Samaha said the council had not received any ministerial resignations on Wednesday. Political sources said Posts and Communications Minister George Saadeh, head of the Christian Falange Party opposing the polls, would resign if the cabinet decided to hold the remaining two rounds of voting. Mr. Saadeh said before Wednesday's debate: "The government is in deep trouble and so is all the country. The fate of the national reconciliation and peace could be at stake if we do not act quickly to solve the crisis." House Speaker Hussein Hussein has already resigned, accusing Hizbollah opponents of rigging votes in Sunday's round. (Continued on page 5)

King to leave hospital Saturday in full health

His Majesty thanks Jordanians and all others for their concern over his health, meets delegation

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein, who is expected to leave hospital Saturday, has expressed his profound thanks and gratitude for the concern of the Jordanian family over his health condition and assured the country that he was doing well after surgery. The King, who is recuperating at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, appeared on Jordan Television Wednesday for the first time after he underwent surgery and had his left kidney removed at the clinic last Thursday to voice his sentiments to the Jordanians.

The King also received at the clinic Wednesday a delegation headed by Lower House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyeh and including several members of the Upper House and Lower House. The delegation flew to the U.S. to congratulate the King on the success of the surgery and to wish him a speedy recovery. The King's personal physician, Dr. Samir Farraj, said Wednesday that the King was expected to leave the Mayo Clinic Saturday fully cured and enjoying full health. "The medical team which supervised the King's surgery and treatment has examined the results of the final labora-

tory tests and decided that King Hussein has been totally cured and that the operation he underwent last Thursday was one hundred per cent successful," Dr. Farraj said. He quoted the medical team as announcing King Hussein was in no need for further post-surgery treatment of any kind. "King Hussein enjoys good health and he is leaving hospital Saturday to begin a period of rest and recuperation," Dr. Farraj said. In the meantime, King Hussein continued to receive cables of good wishes for a speedy recovery from Jordanian and non-Jordanian personalities.



The latest cables came from Palestine Liberation Organisation Executive

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10 killed, many hurt in blast at Algiers airport

ALGIERS (AP) — Ten people were killed and 15 injured Wednesday when a powerful bomb exploded at Algiers airport, Interior Minister Mohamed Hardi said. The bomb, which blew out windows and destroyed the Air France counter at Houari Boumedienne airport around 10:30 a.m. (0930 GMT), was apparently hidden in a flowerpot, airline employees said. The airport was closed and passengers told to return home. Armed guards were posted throughout the terminal. Another bomb went off by the Air France office in downtown Algiers shortly afterwards, but police evacuated the area about three minutes before it went off, Mr. Hardi said on national radio, indicating there had been some kind of warning. There were no injuries in the second blast and only minor damage to the airline office. Police blocked off traffic for about 90 minutes. An Air France spokesman in Paris would not comment on the attacks, saying it was not clear if the airline was the actual target of the bombings. Communications with the airline's offices in Algiers had not been established, he said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for either bombing, but suspicion fell on armed Muslim groups, which have been waging an insurgency against the government all year. Fundamentalist Muslim militants have attacked police and soldiers and committed bombings and arson against government targets since legislative elections were cancelled in January. "It is not acceptable for a minority to impose its will on the majority through such terrorist acts, or try to force the government to make concessions," Mr. Hardi said on the radio. A third bomb, set to go off near the office of Swissair in central Algiers, was defused, sources close to police said. Most windows at the interna-

Palestinians look closely at Israel's 'self-rule' proposals

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Palestinian negotiators are taking a close look at an Israeli proposal for limited self-rule on the occupied territories, but they have not dropped their main objectives. They also want to know if the slowdown Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has ordered in Jewish settlements in the occupied territories is permanent, chief Palestinian negotiator Haidar Abdul Shafi said Tuesday night. He said his side was approaching the new round of talks at the State Department "with an open mind and heart." Israel's proposal calls for election of an administrative agency through which Palestinians would take charge of their day-to-day lives. "It is up to our counterparts to say if they want to pursue this road or any other way," Elyakim Rubinstein, the chief Israeli negotiator, said after the 2 1/2-

hour session. It was the first meeting between Israel and the Palestinians in three months. Since then, a new Israeli government has slowed down settlements, reversed the expulsion of 11 Palestinians, announced the release of 800 prisoners and lifted some restrictions on life in the West Bank and Gaza. Dr. Abdul Shafi said he hoped "there is a new mandate" in Israel. He said his side was "going to study" the new Israeli position papers but emphasised they would be considered against the backdrop of the Palestinians' own plan. Presented in negotiations with Israel three months ago, it would provide for the election of a legislature and take other steps to further the establishment of a Palestinian state. Despite the divergent

approaches, the two sides reflected goodwill and a readiness to consider each other's views. "Our hearts are open, our minds are open," Mr. Rubinstein said. "It's true, there is a new tone, there is a more positive attitude" in this sixth round of Mideast talks, Hanaan Ashrawi, the Palestinian spokeswoman, said earlier. But she said the two sides must now address the issues of Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza and differences over how to increase the autonomy of Palestinians in the occupied territories. "I would like to remind you that 11,000 units are also 11,000 obstacles to peace," she said of Mr. Rabin's decision to halt construction of some 6,000 planned

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3 Palestinians, Israeli killed in Jenin shootout

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Two Palestinians, an Israeli officer and an Arab housewife were killed Wednesday in a seven-hour gun battle between undercover forces and Palestinians, the army announced. Two Palestinian toddlers, aged one and three, and a Palestinian woman were wounded as soldiers besieged a hideout of Palestinian activists in the West Bank town of Jenin, the army said. Israel Radio said the Israeli officer lay seriously wounded for several hours inside the house while his troops tried to rescue him. The army statement only said the officer was wounded and killed during the raid. The clash, one of the bloodiest since "death squads" using Arab disguises were formed four years ago, could upset the improved atmosphere at Middle East peace talks in Washington. Palestinians have accused the undercover units of practising a shoot-to-kill policy, a charge denied by the army. Israeli liberals have demanded an investigation into the squads, which track wanted activists in the 4 1/2-year Palestinian uprising. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, during a visit Tuesday to a West Bank undercover squad, reportedly told soldiers they were

doing a good job and should ignore criticism from liberals. The Jenin shootout began close to midnight, when an undercover squad of the paramilitary border police headed by Captain Eliyahu Avraham, 29, raided the home of Khaled Alounneh following reports that wanted men were hiding there, the army said. The wanted men returned fire, and Capt. Avraham was hit. Military sources said the civilians inside the house apparently were wounded during the next exchange of fire when troops tried to evacuate Mr. Avraham. The shooting killed Mr. Alounneh's 27-year-old wife and seriously wounded her two daughters, one-year-old Duaa and three-year-old Lwara, the army said. The other wounded was a woman neighbour, Israel Radio said. The army said seven hours after the battle began a police squad burst into the house and killed the two fighters, who, they said, were armed with M-16 assault rifles and grenades. Palestinian sources said the dead fighters — Ibrahim Zariki, 21, and Ibrahim Jalanni, 18 — belonged to the Black Panthers, which is affiliated with the mainstream Fatah faction of the Pales-

Arafat: U.S. bias could torpedo peace talks

GENEVA (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat accused Washington Wednesday of bias in favour of Israel and said it was a cause to abort U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace talks. In a fierce speech to a conference on Palestine at the European headquarters of the United Nations, Mr. Arafat attacked the United States for its decision to unblock \$10 billion worth of loan guarantees for Israel. "We consider there to be a flagrant bias in favour of the Israeli position and a cause or reason to abort the peace process," he said. He said U.S. actions were "not in keeping with the responsibilities of the United States as a co-sponsor of the peace process." A sixth round of the Arab-Israeli talks opened in Washington on Monday. It was the first session since Yitzhak Rabin's Labour Party took power in Israel and promised to speed up peace negotiations. The PLO is excluded from the talks but Palestinian negotiators say Israel has shown a willingness to discuss substantive issues. "The results of the recent Israeli elections were an important step because they were a rejection by the Israeli people of the policy of war, of procrastination... they were a vote in favour of peace," Mr. Arafat said. "However, he have seen how Mr. Rabin's statements since he took office contradict his actions on the ground. He gives the world sugar-coated words and pursues an iron-fisted policy on the ground." Mr. Arafat said Mr. Rabin was still settling Jewish immigrants in the occupied Arab territories and was continuing the previous gov-

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Central and Southern tribal leaders launch political party

By Marianne M. Shalish

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Tribal politicians from the central and southern regions Wednesday announced the founding of a new Jordanian party, the Jordan National Alliance. Milhem Khreisheh, a former governor of Balqa District, became the uncontested secretary-general of the new party. Elections for a party central committee were postponed till next month, pending the enactment of the law on political parties. The party's initiation was

attended by approximately 200 men, many of them retired high-ranking army officers. Also attending the launching of the party was Lower House Deputy Faisal Ben Jazi, who addressed the audience with calls for national unity, emphasising the need to protect Jordan's borders. Mr. Ben Jazi's presence at the party's formal launching at the Crown Hotel, close to the Jordan Television station, was an explicit sign of a political alliance between his Southern bedouin tribe

and Mr. Khreisheh's Central bedouin district. Neither Mr. Khreisheh nor Mr. Ben Jazi has any political history independent of the Jordanian government, which both served as high-ranking civil servants. The political alliance of bedouin tribes is seen by local analysts as a new but natural phenomenon on the political scene. "It is the natural outcome of the legitimisation of political parties," said one analyst. The political objectives of Jordan National Alliance are similar to those of most other parties

being formed in the Kingdom. National sovereignty, the uniqueness of the Jordanian identity, commitment to the Constitution, allegiance to the Throne and adherence to democracy and pluralism as well as the protection of the "homeland against all threats in all their manifestations" are the main points in the party's manifesto. Special support for the security forces as well as Jordan's special role in defending and supporting the Palestinian cause are also included in the manifesto. Mr. Khreisheh also called for Arab unity.

Like many other emerging political parties in the Kingdom, the Jordan National Alliance emphasises issues related to national security. However, no concrete platform on security issues, economic problems or other current issues were presented Wednesday. The party manifesto calls for respect for the individual's rights to "own property, to work and to free for expression as well as protection of women." Full recognition of the party will have to wait until a royal decree officially enacts the law on political parties.

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Somalis push forward to get their daily ration of water at a Red Cross camp in Baidoa, Somalia

Aid experts urge caution over troop role in Somalia

NAIROBI (R) — International aid workers on Wednesday welcomed plans to send more U.N. armed troops to Somalia, but urged caution so as to avoid a bloodbath with marauding armed gangs.

"We have been saying for months the most important thing for Somalia is to establish security so of course this must be good news," said one expert on Somalia, coordinating relief efforts by European Community (EC) countries.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali has recommended the use of 3,500 security forces food supplies around famine-stricken Somalia and an unspecified number of civilian staff to help rebuild the devastated country.

But aid workers with first-hand experience of the anarchy in the Horn of Africa, where thousands die of hunger each week, stressed the need for the world-body to cooperate closely with feuding warlords who loosely control different areas.

"A lot of people could find themselves without a job and be mightily fed up. Unless, the U.N. tread carefully it could be a disaster," said a senior source with the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The ICRC and other aid organisations say protection from gun-toting teenagers has been Somalia's only growth industry since it dissolved into chaos after dictator Mohammed Siad Barre fell from power in January 1991.

"To try to force the gangs out of the ports and airport would invite trouble because these guys see it as their livelihood," said

another aid worker.

All aid organisations pay for such groups to escort them around the ruined Horn of Africa country. Food supplies are often looted and never reach those for whom they were intended.

"A lot of looting happens when people are angry," said one relief worker who has been in Somalia for more than a year. "If the U.N. kicked out the gangs there would be an awful lot of angry Somalis with guns who felt they'd been deprived of a job."

In a report to the Security Council on Tuesday, Dr. Ghali said he needed more blue berets to police four zones throughout the country, in addition to 500 Pakistani soldiers about to be deployed in the capital Mogadishu.

A total of 1,500, he said, should serve in the port of Bosaso in the southwest, where local leaders have already agreed to their eventual deployment. Two more contingents of 750 each would be based in the ports Berbera and Kismayu.

Privately, U.N. officials are worried that unless there is close and constant consultation with the leaders of the different armed factions, the troops will become the targets of violence and could even exacerbate current tensions.

Accepting the operation was high-risk, the U.N.'s special representative to Somalia Ambassador Mohammed Sahnoun returned to Mogadishu on Tuesday and said he would shortly be visiting other key towns throughout the country.

"If we organise our assistance

in such a way that we involve the Somalis, then the U.N. security plan will be able to work," he told Reuters before leaving Nairobi.

Experts on Somali, where virtually everyone is armed, say they are certain the U.N. troops will come under fire and say they must have their hands free to do the job.

"To say they can return fire is a joke, it is putting them there with their hands tied behind their backs. If they are there to improve security, they will have to have a mandate allowing them to do it," said one analyst.

Dr. Ghali has stressed relief for Somalia since he took office in January following criticisms from the Red Cross and other aid groups that the United Nations was doing too little too late to ward off mass starvation.

The Security Council has so far approved the Pakistani battalion and 50 unarmed military officers observing a ceasefire in Mogadishu. It must now approve the additional 3,000 after Dr. Ghali estimates their cost.

Dr. Ghali hoped military observers could be sent in future, particularly on the Somali-Kenya border where weapons smuggling is rampant.

But for the moment, Dr. Ghali said the "critical problem facing the United Nations (is) how to ensure the security of relief supplies at all stages, namely delivery, storage and distribution."

"Lack of security prevents the delivery of food, while food shortages contribute significantly to the level of violence and insecurity," he said.

Turkish cabinet to meet in Kurdish 'capital'

ANKARA (R) — President Turgut Ozal on Wednesday summoned Turkey's military and civilian leaders to meet in the south-eastern city of Diyarbakir to discuss a wave of Kurdish-related violence.

Mr. Ozal used his constitutional powers to call emergency meetings of the National Security Council, which groups senior military officers and government ministers, and the cabinet in Diyarbakir on Thursday, a statement from his office said.

It said the council would discuss events in the town of Sirnak, deserted by most of its 25,000 residents on Monday after a two-day battle between troops and separatist Kurdish rebels.

Twenty people, five of them security men, have been killed in Sirnak in the past week.

More than a quarter of the 4,500 people killed since the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) began its independence war for Turkey's 10 million Kurds in 1984 have died this year.

National Security Council and cabinet meetings have in the past rarely been held outside Ankara or Istanbul. Many Kurdish nationalists regard Diyarbakir as their "capital."

The council, with Mr. Ozal in the chair, would "debate measures to protect Turkey's indivisible integrity, public peace and order, constitutional order and national unity," the statement from the president's office said.

Mr. Ozal would then preside over a cabinet meeting to consider the council's recommendations.

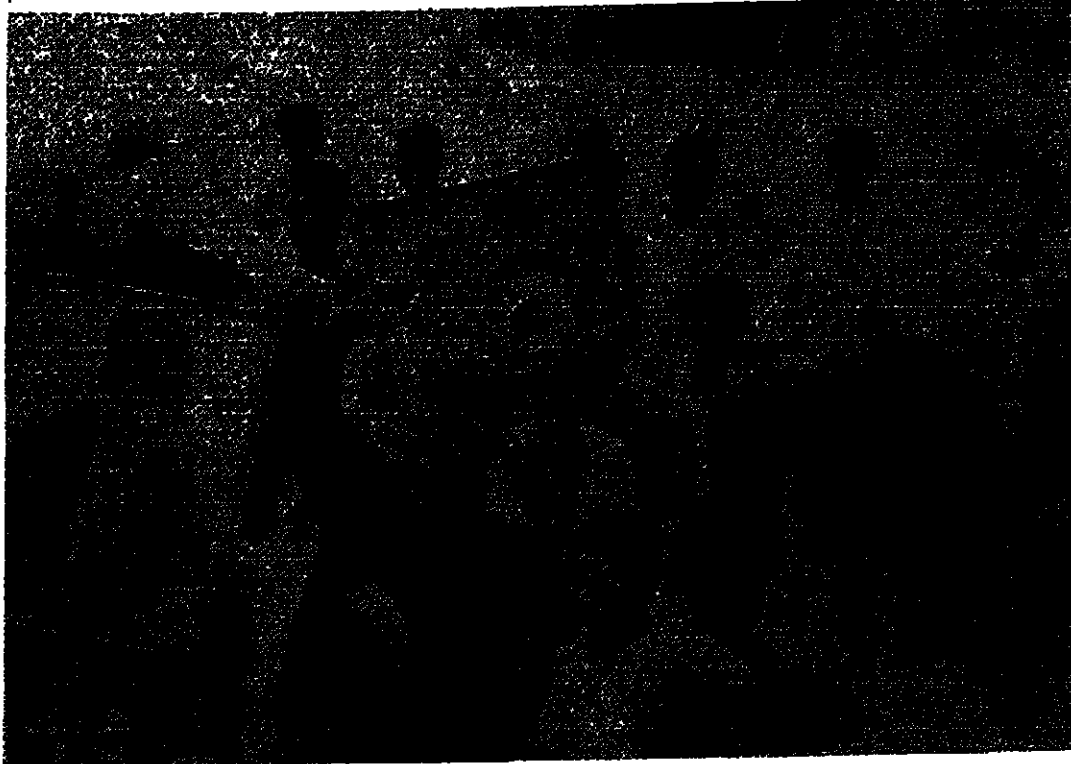
His dramatic initiative seemed certain to annoy Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel, who said on Tuesday that the fight against Kurdish rebels was going "according to programme."

Mr. Demirel, however, told reporters at Istanbul airport he would attend the meetings in Diyarbakir.

"This is a constitutional matter and we will accept the invitation of the president," he said.

Mr. Ozal, whose political power has diminished sharply since his main rival Demirel took office in November, stirred controversy this month by suggesting that Kurdish-language broadcasting and education should be permitted in the southeast.

Last year Mr. Ozal managed to lift a ban on Kurdish speech and music and has said federal proposals to solve the Kurdish crisis should be discussed, even if he himself strongly opposed them.



Hundreds of Iraqi Shiites demonstrate in support of President Saddam Hussein at the southern Hawlezh marshes.

Iraq says 'Third River' set to flow in days

DALMAJ, Iraq (R) — Three thousand heavy machines and thousands more workers are toiling day and night to finish Iraq's "Third River" despite Western assertion that it will sound the death knell for the marsh Arabs.

Engineers expect the 565-kilometre waterway to start flowing from Baghdad to the southern port of Basra within days.

Condemned last month by a U.N. human rights investigator as perhaps the greatest threat to the marsh Arabs, the canal collects excess irrigation water between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers and leads to the Gulf.

Journalists on Tuesday visited the Soviet-designed central sector where only 11 kilometres across the windy and dust-filled desert need to be dug deeper before the Third River flows from north to south.

"We've been working 24 hours a day for the last three months," said Mohammad Karabash, the 178-kilometre sector's chief engineer, adding that the northern and southern parts needed only finishing touches.

He said 4,500 workers on 12-hour shifts 24 hours per day and 725 heavy machines and excavators, including 10 Soviet-made monsters weighing 350 tonnes each, were rushing to complete digging south of Dalmaj, 215 kilometres southeast of Baghdad.

Officials said 3,000 heavy machines were working on the project. Diplomats say they include up to \$2 billion worth of equipment confiscated this year from foreign firms. Many of the vehicles are still marked with the names of East European and Soviet contractors.

Mr. Karabash said 95 per cent

of work was complete and the last digging would take a few days with the army of machines removing 750,000 cubic metres of dirt and sand each day.

After two years of U.N. sanctions and nearly 50 years of planning and work, Iraq hails the Third River as the largest single irrigation project in the history of the land of twin rivers.

Diplomats believe it is show-piece for Iraq's ability to survive sanctions, a boost to agriculture and a method of weakening the 3,000-year-old inaccessibility of the marsh Arabs. "It's an ideal project for Iraq," said one envoy, adding that only its leaders knew which aim was the main priority.

Max Van der Stoep, special investigator for the U.N. Human Rights Commission, accused Iraq last month of indiscriminately bombing the marshes where Baghdad says Iranian infiltrators and Iraqi army deserters are hiding.

Mr. Van der Stoep's report helped prompt Gulf War allies to announce plans to bar all Iraqi aircraft from southern Iraq.

He said the Third River was "perhaps the greatest threat" to the marsh Arabs because it would drain much of the marshes, killing reeds and fish. He called for the project to be halted.

Deputy Agriculture Minister Abdul Sattar Hussein denied the charges. "There is no connection whatsoever between this project and the question of the marshes in southern Iraq," he told reporters, adding marsh water levels were falling because of reduced flows in the Tigris and especially Euphrates.

Turkey has cut water flowing

into Iraq to fill the Ataturk Dam on the upper reaches of the Euphrates since 1990.

Mr. Hussein said the canal, called the Leader's River after President Saddam Hussein, only cut through the southern edge of one marsh where a dike would stop the two water systems mixing.

"This project is created to carry only drainage water and not divert water from the Tigris and Euphrates," he said.

Work started on the first stage of the river in 1953 to stop irrigated land turning barren because salt was left on flatlands when standing water evaporated and the euphrates was turning more saline.

Running between the Tigris and Euphrates, the Third River drains their excess irrigation water so it washes away the salt in the soil, eventually turning the land fertile again.

Mr. Karabash denied reports reserve soldiers were working on the project and said labourers received average wages of about 750 Iraqi dinars a month (\$37 at the unofficial exchange rate, \$2,325 at the official rate) as well as free food and lodging.

He said troops only guard the waterway which will be used by 5,000-tonne barges to bring cargoes from southern Iraq to Baghdad.

Sanctions forced mechanics to cannibalise machines for spares and thousands more out of action, he added.

But the final work in the desert uncovered an unexpected dividend — archaeological remains of an ancient civilisation including glass and stone figurines.

No trace of Iraq's missile delivery knowhow, U.N. says

UNITED NATIONS (R) — A U.N. inspection team which recently visited Iraq found no evidence Baghdad was capable of producing complete guidance and control systems for ballistic missiles, the United Nations said on Tuesday.

Nor did the team find any weapons or key components forbidden under a Security Council resolution calling for the scrapping of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

A summary of the findings of the U.N. inspectors, who visited Iraq from Aug. 7 to 18, was drawn up by the U.N. special commission in charge of destroying Baghdad's nuclear, chemical, biological and ballistic weapons stocks and facilities.

The main purpose of the inspection was to investigate Iraq's ability to produce complete guidance and control systems for ballistic missiles, the U.N. commission said.

"No evidence was found that Iraq had the capability to produce complete guidance and control systems for ballistic missiles," the summary said.

The U.N. team, led by Russian expert Nikita Smidovich, conducted intrusive inspections at eight sites, including document and computer searches and joint helicopter-ground operations.

Iraq fired over 40 Scud missiles at Saudi Arabia and Israel during the Gulf war last year.

The U.N. inspectors obtained important new information about the scope of Iraq's programmes to acquire or produce prohibited ballistic missiles and components. This included information about previously undisclosed projects for computer support and missile fuel production.

Further information was also obtained about the relationship between the various projects in the ballistic missiles programme and the involvement of different Iraqi organisations.

New data was also gathered concerning foreign involvement in certain aspects of the programme, the U.N. commission said without elaborating.

One of the sites visited was a newly-established facility at which all future Iraqi research and development will be undertaken into non-prohibited ballistic missiles — those with a range of less than 150 kilometres that do not come under the U.N. ban.

The inspection of this site provided much information that will be of use in designing the ongoing monitoring and verification regime that will need to be applied to ensure that it will not be used for prohibited purposes, the U.N. commission said.

Denktash voices dismay at U.N. report on Cyprus

NICOSIA (R) — Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash voiced dismay on Wednesday at U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali's report on recent Cyprus negotiations.

"They put before us a dish which they cooked in their kitchen, with their ingredients and recipe," Mr. Denktash told a news conference in Nicosia. "We cannot eat it if other additives, seasonings and ingredients are not included."

He was referring to a so-called "set of ideas" and a map proposed by Dr. Ghali as the basis for a settlement to reunite Cyprus as a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation.

Mr. Denktash said the report was not acceptable as it stood and he might not attend a planned resumption of the New York talks in October in person unless it could be modified.

He complained the U.N. chief's report presented on Monday

included Greek-Cypriot "statistics and views" but none of the proposals he had offered during lengthy talks in New York.

Dr. Ghali's report said Turkish Cypriots must make more territorial concessions "if the delicately crafted balance in the remainder of the set of ideas is to be maintained."

The report also said that although Mr. Denktash had accepted in principle the right of displaced persons to return and recover their property, he wanted to protect many categories of Turkish Cypriots now living in Greek-Cypriot properties from eviction.

Mr. Denktash, who has said he can accept a Turkish-Cypriot federated state comprising 29 per cent of the island, declared that political issues had to be decided first.

"We have not yet seen the desire of the Greek-Cypriot side to make a federation with us," he



Rauf Denktash said, "Territory does not come on the agenda if there is not going to be a federation."

coup leaders from proclaiming union with Greece.

The northern state declared by Turkish Cypriots in 1983, but recognised only by Ankara, controls 37 per cent of the land.

Mr. Denktash criticised what he called pressure on him by the U.N. secretary-general and Cyprus President George Vassiliou and said it was not conducive to a solution.

He raised the possibility that the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council might in future block trade, tourism and air links with northern Cyprus to try to impose a solution.

"If they are so ruthless, they may do it," he said. "I know that my people will resist all this and will not sign an agreement they do not want."

The Security Council was due to adopt a resolution on Wednesday calling on the parties to the Cyprus dispute to continue talks at U.N. headquarters in October.

Iran paper blames foreign powers for island row

NICOSIA (R) — A pro-government Tehran newspaper, rejecting charges of Iranian regional expansionism, said on Wednesday "foreign powers" were behind a row between Iran and the United Arab Emirates over a Gulf island.

The Tehran Times called for direct negotiations between Iran and the UAE sheikhdom of Sharjah to resolve any problems over Abu Musa island which they run jointly under a 1971 agreement.

The latest row surfaced on Monday when Iran turned back ship with 104 people on board from the island, saying its passengers, mostly non-UAE citizens,

had no entry permits.

The Sharjah-based newspaper Al Khaleej accused Tehran of breaking the 1971 agreement. It said Iran's action recalled the late Shah's efforts to expand Iranian control over the region.

"These kinds of press scandals are instigated by the foreign powers who are trying to justify their illegal presence in the region and to prevent the establishment of friendly relations among the countries of the area," the Tehran Times said.

"In any event, these are problems which have to be resolved between Iran and Sharjah in an amicable atmosphere, especially

as Iran and the Sheikdom of Sharjah are collaborating on the extraction of 50,000 barrels of petroleum per day from oil wells around the island," it said.

Under the 1971 agreement, Iran is allowed to station troops on part of the island but its inhabitants remain subject to Sharjah law. Oil revenue is shared between Sharjah and Iran.

Iran used Abu Musa, located halfway between Iran and the UAE coast in the southern Gulf, as a base for speedboat attacks on oil tankers during its eight-year war with Iraq.

Rejecting charges of Iranian

expansionism, the Tehran Times said "mysterious hands" were at work to wreck Iran's relations with the UAE.

The paper said some regional countries "try for various reasons to be dependent on foreign powers, and do not wish to see peace and stability prevail in the Persian Gulf."

Tehran has improved its relations with Gulf Arab states since the Iran-Iraq war ended in 1988 and especially after it condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

But it has consistently criticised the Gulf states, especially Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for inviting U.S. and other Western troops to the region.

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00	Cross Partners
18:30	Magny
19:00	News in French
19:15	Varities
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	The Simpsons
21:00	NBA match
21:30	News in English
22:30	Famous film "White Hot"

PRAYER TIMES

06:27	Fajr
06:50	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:30	Dhuhr
16:17	'Asr
19:17	Maghreb
20:29	Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetish Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 62785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 62450

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 63740

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrence Church Tel. 622646

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 62541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Eplivian Church Tel. 771751

Austrian International Church Tel. 827981, 685326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811285

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 623624 and 654932

Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Slight rise in temperatures will take place and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp.	
Amman	18 / 33
Aqaba	26 / 38
Deserts	16 / 36
Jordan Valley	24 / 37

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31, Aqaba 38. Humidity readings: Amman 30 per cent, Aqaba 12 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Kayed Halayba	793522
Dr. Abdul Qader Al-Lala	690408
Dr. Saleh Al-Ussoud	649028
Dr. Ghazi Abu-Sheikha	752405
Fordons pharmacy	66912
776336	
Al Azaza pharmacy	637035
Nairook pharmacy	626672
Al Salem pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shawassat pharmacy	637660

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Emergency	630341
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 677777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	843402
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	693900
Police Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Complaints	
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	122
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	
Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	636381

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn.	642814
Akhil Maternity, J. Amn.	642412
Jabal Amman Maternity	642632
Melham, J. Amman	636140
Pediatric, Shamsud	664714
Shamsud Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845435
Al-Munashir Hospital	6672719
The Islamic, Abdali	66612737
Al-Ahli, Abdali	6641646
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	771013
Amey, Marka	891611/15
Queen Alla Hospital	602240/50
Amal Hospital	771013
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)900560
Al-Bana Modern Hospital	(09)983732
IBRAHIM:	
Priestess Banaa Hospital	(02)755535
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)727275

FLIGHT INFORMATION

RJ Flight Information 06-53200

Queen Alla Int'l. Airport 06-53200

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)532025, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:15	Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
06:15	New Delhi (RJ)
06:45	Riyadh (RJ)
06:45	Dhahran (RJ)
06:45	Aqaba (RJ)
06:45	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
11:15	Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)
22:00	Madrid (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:15	Beirut (RJ)
08:00	Aqaba (RJ)
12:00	Rome (RJ)
12:15	Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
13:00	Amman (RJ)
13:10	London (RJ)
13:15	Larnaca (RJ)
13:20	Larnaca (RJ)
13:20	Cairo (RJ)
13:20	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
13:20	Beirut (RJ)
13:20	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
13:20	Madrid (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

07:45	Damascus, Paris (AF)
08:15	Beirut (MSE)
13:40	Doha, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (RJ)
15:30	Riyadh (RJ)
18:15	Istanbul (TK)
21:30	Cairo (MSE)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg

Apple (red)	550 / 520
Banana	500 / 490
Banana (Mikamun)	520 / 500
Beans	480 / 300
Carrots	90 / 50
Cauliflower	250 / 200
Cucumbers (large)	240 / 180
Cucumbers (small)	120 / 80
Eggplant	90 / 30
Garlic	550 / 450
Lemon	600 / 500
Marrow (large)	150 / 100
Marrow (small)	320 / 160
Onion (dry)	130 / 90
Onion (green)	150 / 100
Peas	600 / 500
Pumpkin	220 / 160
Pepper (hot)	120 / 100
Pepper (sweet)	120 / 100
Potato	180 / 120
Sweet Melon	180 / 120
Tomato	60 / 30
Watermelon	60 / 30

Handwritten signature or stamp in Arabic script.

Damascus meeting to review joint power linkage project

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Representatives of five Middle Eastern countries will meet in Damascus in October to review a feasibility study for a joint power linkage project.

Jordanian, Syrian, Egyptian, Iraqi and Turkish officials will not take any final decision on the project until all of its aspects have been fully examined, Director General of the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Mohammad Saeed Arafeh said Wednesday.

The meeting will only review the study, he told the Jordan Times.

According to Egyptian Minis-

ter of Electricity and Energy Maher Abaza, the feasibility study, which was prepared by a Canadian firm, indicates that the five countries can recover the cost of the estimated \$100 million project five years after it becomes operational.

Egypt and Jordan have already taken steps towards linking their national power grids, and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) has already approved a \$140 million loan for the project.

According to Mr. Arafeh the JEA and the Egyptian Electricity Authority are now studying bids by a number of Arab and foreign firms to carry out a project for linking the Egyptian and Jor-

nian national power grids.

Jordan, he said, is getting a \$35 million loan from AFESD to carry out its part of the project, which entails laying an 11-kilometre submarine cable line between Sinai and Aqaba and establishing transformer stations and other installations along the route of a 300 kilometre, 500-kilovolt line.

The linkage of power grids was approved by the joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee in 1986, when Cairo and Amman decided to upgrade their transformer and power generating stations.

Jordan's grid was connected with Syria's in 1981 through a 230-kilovolt line and the two countries have since been able to exchange power.

Once the study of the bids to carry out the Egyptian-Jordanian power linkage has been completed, work can begin on the project, according to Mr. Arafeh. He said that work on the project should have started in 1990 but was delayed due to the Gulf crisis.

Ministry completes its build-up of emergency food reserves

NORTH SHUNEH (Petra) — The Ministry of Social Development has completed building up food and other reserves and finalising arrangements towards dealing with emergencies in the coming winter season, Minister of Social Development Amin Mashaqbeh said during a visit to Northern Shmeh Wednesday.

The ministry and its departments in the provinces have been augmenting their food supplies, which normally benefit the needy people in difficult weather conditions in winter, said the minister at a meeting held at the district governor's office here.

The Ministry of Social Development has already distributed food supplies to 600 needy families in the north eastern badia districts and Bani Hamideh, it is planning similar campaigns in the Jordan Valley, shortly, said Dr. Mashaqbeh.

Each month, the ministry spends half a million dinars in assistance to 22,000 needy families in Jordan and is planning to raise the monthly amount it gives to these families by JD 10 next year, said Dr. Mashaqbeh.



Amin Mashaqbeh

Under directives from Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the ministry is preparing a project which entails granting loans to needy families to set up their own income-generating projects and also to process the distributions of emergency aid to the needy through the provincial governors in each area, said the minister.

In the past winter season, he said, the ministry distributed a

total of JD58,000 in in-kind assistance to people severely affected by the weather conditions in the Jordan Valley.

The ministry is also studying the prospect of opening classes in North Shmeh to offer special education to handicapped children in cooperation with the Islamic Relief Organisation.

It will set up an orphanage in the same town where 400 parentless children are reported to be living, said Dr. Mashaqbeh.

During his visit, the minister opened in Al Mashareh district a community centre which offers training in dress making and tailoring to local young women and later visited the North Shmeh, Adasieh and Alyabis charitable organisations.

The minister inspected progress on the implementation of the first phase of a project for the development of the Shireh village. The project will build canals for preserving water for agricultural purposes and for expanding the irrigated farmlands from 150 dunams at present to 500 dunams out of a total of 4000 dunams of still unused land.

Geneva seeks support for bid to host U.N. panel

AMMAN (Petra) — Switzerland has formally asked Jordan to support its bid to host a U.N.-sponsored committee on sustainable development which was set up by the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in June.

The request was made by Swiss Presidential envoy Pierre Yves Simonin who arrived in Jordan Monday and held talks with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Secretary General of Foreign Ministry Mutaseem Beibesi, and Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Razak Tubeishat.

At a press conference in Amman Wednesday, Mr. Simonin said locating the committee in Geneva will be convenient because of the presence of many U.N. organisations in the city. He said his country will spend up to \$2 million annually for the coming five years to support the committee, whose duties include coordinating economic and social development and protecting the environment.

Mr. Simonin said his country's

interest in hosting the committee reflects its respect for the United Nations and its organisations.

Describing the sixth round of Arab-Israeli peace talks currently taking place in Washington as positive, the Swiss envoy said "the latest developments in the region reflect genuine concern" for the establishment of a just, durable and comprehensive peace in the area.

He said Switzerland was willing to play an active role in the peace process, expressing readiness to host the bilateral or multilateral negotiations.

During his meeting with Mr. Simonin, Dr. Tubeishat thanked the Swiss government for its endeavours to protect the environment, noting that Jordan has been among the first nations to sign international agreements on the protection of the environment.

Dr. Tubeishat also briefed the Swiss envoy on the national Jordanian strategy on the environment, which was endorsed by the government this year.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Regent congratulates Moldovan president

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, sent Wednesday a cable to the Moldovan president, congratulating him on his country's independence day. Prince Hassan wished the president good health and happiness and the Moldovan people further progress and prosperity.

Agricultural experts to receive training in Taiwan

AMMAN (Petra) — Fifteen Jordanian agricultural experts and consultants will enrol in a training course at the Agricultural Research Centre in Taiwan between Oct. 27 and Nov. 14. Taiwan will cover the cost of the training under an agreement reached between the Ministry of Agriculture and a visiting Taiwanese delegation in Amman Wednesday. The course will include practical training in modern techniques of vegetables and fruit harvesting.

GUVS provides buses to handicapped centres

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Wednesday presented six buses to Al Amal centres for the handicapped which were established by GUVS in Madaba, Aqaba, Zarqa, Salt, Eidoun and Mafrak. A ceremony for presenting the 28-passenger buses was held at Yajouz Handicapped Centre in the presence of the directors of the concerned centres. The six new centres are part of GUVS plans to establish 18 centres for the handicapped in all governorates of the Kingdom. A new centre in Tafleh is expected to open soon, while preparations are still underway to establish similar centres in Jerash, Ajloun and Amman. Guvs has earlier supplied the Maan and Aqaba handicapped centres with buses in cooperation with the Industrial Development Bank (IDB).

PSD director honours policemen

AMMAN (Petra) — Public Security Department (PSD) Director Major General Fadel Ali Fuheid Tuesday attended a ceremony held at the Public Security Special Brigade Department to honour the brigade's personnel. Major General Fuheid distributed awards to personnel who have exerted distinguished efforts in maintaining national security. The PSD director also attended the graduation ceremony of a two-week course organised for sons of policemen. He also opened services facilities for the brigade in Swaga area and attended the brigade's annual celebrations.

One dies, 15 injured in car accidents

AMMAN (J.T.) — A total of 70 road accidents occurred in one day this week, resulting in the death of one person and the injury of 15 others, according to a report in Al Ra'i daily Wednesday. The report said a total of 117 cars were damaged in these accidents, most of which occurred in Amman.

Industrial engineering seminar ends

AMMAN (J.T.) — A seminar on industrial engineering in Jordan ended at the University of Jordan Wednesday. Participants recommended that further efforts be made to bolster relations between the University of Jordan and the Jordanian industrial firms. They also called on the university to be more involved in technology-related matters through a specialised research centre to be set up in the university.

Qalal back from narcotics meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of the Amman-based Arab Narcotics Office Brigadier Hashem Al Qalal returned to Amman Wednesday after representing the Council of Arab Ministers of Interior (AMI) at an international conference held at Glasgow, the United Kingdom. The meeting dealt with means of combating drug and alcohol addiction and recommended further research into means of countering it.

3 killed in Jenin

(Continued from page 1)

time Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The army said one of the men was wanted for the killing last February of an Israeli security guard in Jenin, a centre of resistance to the Israeli occupation. Despite the accusations from

human rights groups that Israel is operating a shoot-to-kill policy, undercover units have pressed ahead with a campaign to eliminate the Black Panthers and other Palestinian groups that have turned to armed struggle.

Residents in the region report continual middle-of-the-night raids by soldiers searching for Palestinian fighters.

World threatens Serbia

(Continued from page 1)

believe that world opinion will readily forgive anyone who impedes that work over the next couple of days and beyond.

He warned of tougher international sanctions against any party that blocks a peace agreement.

"No trade, no aid, no international recognition or role. Economic, cultural, political and diplomatic isolation," Mr. Major said.

Radoslav Karadzic, leader of Bosnia's Serbs said Wednesday he was prepared to surrender up to 15 per cent of the territory held by his forces but he insisted "Bosnia-Herzegovina doesn't exist anymore as a state."

Karadzic later walked out of the talks to protest being granted only observer status, but he changed his mind after lunch and rejoined the talks.

Acting U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger said before the conference that intensi-

fied bombardment by Serb forces might lead to new sanctions on the Serbia-dominated remnant of Yugoslavia.

"The Serbs obviously are intent on establishing as good a position as they can on the ground prior to the convening of the conference and it's an outrage," Mr. Eagleburger said.

On Tuesday, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) leaders delayed a decision on sending 6,000 soldiers to guard relief shipments into Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Western allies were wary about becoming embroiled in the conflict, and a NATO source said the alliance wanted to see what happened at the peace talks.

Mr. Major, co-chairing the conference as current European Community (EC) president along with U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, made clear that he was addressing his words primarily to Serbia and Montenegro.

Gloomy tales from Iraq

By Cosima Hadidi

Special to the Jordan Times

"My eyes have witnessed what my mind could only imagine," said Christine Oram, Iraqi-American peace activist upon her return from a visit to Iraq last week.

During 80 days of travel in the country, Ms. Oram said she witnessed the suffering of the Iraqi people as a result of international sanctions, the imminent threat of war and acts such as the burning of their fields.

"Iraq has been largely rebuilt physically, but its people continue to suffer emotionally, psychologically, economically and socially," said Ms. Oram, founder of the Iraqi-American Humanitarian Delegation.

The difficulty of the situation is most apparent in the health systems, once among the most efficient in the region.

Due to a severe shortage in medications, hospitals and doctors are forced to attend only to life-threatening situations. They are often unable to help even those.

There are no sanctions imposed on medication and food, yet Iraq lacks the funds to buy enough for its population, said Ms. Oram. "Iraq had paid several countries cash in advance for large amounts of medication in early 1990, but has only received a fraction of what it had paid for," she said.

As a result, doctors are using any kind of medication they find to save at least some lives.

With the breakdown of the water supply and sewage systems, diseases such as cholera, typhoid and polio (once eradicated from Iraq) are spreading rapidly, while hospitals lack the means to treat patients.

One doctor told Ms. Oram that germs, not bombs, are today threatening the people of Iraq. The hardest hit are the children of whom at least 170,000 had died by last May, said Ms. Oram, and an additional 900,000 are malnourished.

An Iraqi government official told her that the mortality rate of children under five had increased



Christine Oram accompanies Iraqi farmers and officials on a visit to a field that was burnt by allied air raid.

by 380 per cent. Many of these children suffered from relatively minor diseases which, untreated, became fatal.

Due to the depreciation of the Iraqi dinar and the sanctions, the consumer price index rose by at least 4000 per cent, said Ms. Oram. This made most basic food items beyond the means of Iraqi citizens. "The average salary for a primary school teacher is 200 Iraqi dinars per month, for a chief doctor it is 400 dinars, while a can of baby milk, for example, costs 110 dinars," he said.

The government has introduced a food rationing system, yet this only covers 40 per cent of the nutritional needs of families,

who resort to selling their household items and jewelry to pay for food and rent.

The Iraqi-American Humanitarian Delegation will present Ms. Oram's findings as well as over 3000 photographs and 46 video films to decision-makers in the United States, asking them to lift the non-military sanctions and allow Iraq to sell its oil to purchase food and medication for its people.

"Iraqis do not ask for hand-outs. It is important that the country is allowed to once again become independent and build up its infrastructure," said Ms. Oram, adding that Iraq needs to buy spare parts for its agricultural

equipment, pesticides and seeds to enable it to feed its people.

Ms. Oram witnessed the burning of Iraqi wheat and barely fields by phosphor bombs.

"I saw women, children and old men trying to put out the fire with their bare hands and the clothes they took off their bodies. The farmers were devastated because to burn one's farm is to burn one's dream," she said.

That was the most difficult situation she saw, she said.

"What is happening in Iraq is a crime against humanity, which no nation could tolerate. What law or religion can justify the tragedy Iraqi children are subjected to?" said Ms. Oram.



KHALIL AL SALEM REMEMBERED: A group of Jordanian personalities held a special gathering at the University of Jordan in commemoration of the late Dr. Khalil Al Salem. A panel of prominent Jordanian figures delivered speeches in remembrance of Dr. Salem, who passed away in June. Speakers included Upper House of Parliament (Senate) Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, former Prime Minister Taher Al Mawri, Senator Ahmad Al Farhan, Senator Kamel Al Shaer, former director of the Public Security Department Abdul Hakeem Al Majali, Anglican Bishop Elias Khouri and a member of the Salem family, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thorayya Al Hindawi, who is in the United States, sent a letter to the ceremony regretting his inability to attend. Former Director General of Jordan Phosphate Mines Company Wasef Azar also apologized for his inability to attend the ceremony. Dr. Salem was rapporteur of the Finance Committee of the Senate when he passed away. He had served as minister of finance and governor of the Central Bank. Member of the Lower House of Parliament Husni Shiyab was master of ceremonies (Petra photo).

Thoroughbreds show off their beauty

AMMAN (J.T.) — One hundred and forty Arabian thoroughbreds will show off their physiques in a beauty contest in the Royal Stables Friday.

Horses from Jordan, Syria, Iraq and the United Kingdom will compete in the "Middle East Championship," in the two-day event which is organised by the Royal Stables in cooperation with a number of Arab and international organisations.

Seven groups of male and female registered Arabian horses will compete in the first day of the contest, while unregistered thoroughbreds will try "their figures" for the title in the second and last day of the contest when the prize-awarding ceremony will also take place.

Meanwhile, a panel of experts in Arabian horses Wednesday started a training course aimed at preparing Arab referees for international Arabian horses contests.

Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein, chairper-



son of the Royal Society for Horsekeepers, will be among the lecturers in the course in which referees from Jordan, Sudan, Tunisia, Qatar and Morocco are participating.

Uncertainty still engulfs the origin of Arabian horses but experts say they were first bred in Yemen and the Arabian Peninsula.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

Exhibitions

- ★ Art exhibition by Lebanese artist Basma Bstoul at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Grace Ghanoum Khleif at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Raimi Al Seyyed at Bahadur Art Gallery.

Seminar

- ★ Seminar, in Arabic, entitled "The Role of Critics in Plastic Art Education at the Scientific and Cultural Centre of Abdel Hameed Shoman Foundation — 6 p.m.

Morning and Evening Courses
in
AEROBICS & CALANETICS
(Trainer: Mrs. Hanan Zuraykat)
For further information, please call:
The National Music Conservatory,
Tel: 687620



The National Music Conservatory/Noor Al Hussein Foundation

IRAQ NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA in concert

Saturday and Sunday, September 5 and 6, 1992 - 8:00 p.m.
The Royal Cultural Center - Main Theatre

In the programme pieces by:

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It's now or never

THE NON-ALIGNED Movement (NAM) will very soon hold its summit in Indonesia to search for a new identity in the wake of the new developments in the world. NAM's identity crisis needs to be resolved as a matter of highest priority when the heads of state of the movement assemble in the Indonesian capital on September 1 because without restructuring and reorienting the movement from top to bottom, its place and relevancy on the theatre of international affairs would remain marginal if not outright insignificant. For this purpose, paramount on the mind of the conferees should be the definition of the aims and objectives of the non-aligned countries in the wake of the ending of the cold war, a development that effectively deprived these countries of much of their importance and impact on international and regional affairs.

During the various preparatory meetings for the September summit, it has been repeatedly pointed out that henceforth the non-aligned countries need to target North-South issues in all their dimensions, be they economic, social or cultural, not to mention the political issues that still divide the world. Yet the political role of NAM has recently been reinforced in the aftermath of the Yugoslav crisis where the termination of the superpower rivalry between the former Soviet Union and the U.S. did not guarantee the resolution of the mushrooming regional and ethnic conflicts. This is where NAM can find a new place and role for itself and may succeed where the only remaining superpower and its allies have thus far failed. With more Yugoslavia-like situations projected to occur worldwide, the leaders of the non-aligned countries would have plenty on their hands in terms of disputes and conflicts between peoples of the world, whether ethnic, religious, cultural or political. This is over and beyond the economic crises that still bedevil so many developing countries that form the backbone of NAM. Famine and drought in countries like Somalia and Ethiopia, where hundreds of thousands of innocent people die before the watching eyes of the developed and developing countries, is something that surely would haunt the participants at the summit. The ever widening gap between the countries of the North and the South, not only in terms of industrialisation and overall economic development but also in terms of technology, both mechanical and intellectual, also awaits redressal.

With the eclipse of bilateral political conflicts between states, economic disputes are bound to increase in dimension and size between them in the future. This is a fertile field for the NAM to work in and coordinate efforts between the poorer countries of the world in a bid to elicit better economic relations with the richer countries worldwide. How the summit participants would manage their deliberations in Jakarta next week could very well determine the future of NAM. The weak and poor countries of the world need a club of their own to speak on their behalf and defend their causes and aspirations. NAM might just be that association since it has the structure and the experience necessary for doing just that.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IT IS not strange to hear Kuwait announcing its approval of the U.S.-plot to partition Iraq simply because its rulers are not familiar with having a nation but rather a petrol station, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday. It is really difficult for the rulers of Kuwait to understand the meaning of defending one's nation and territorial integrity because their is an artificial entity, set up by the colonial powers for a certain purpose: protecting Western interests, said the paper. The fact that these rulers had urged the Americans to drop atomic bombs on Kuwait to evict the Iraqis from the emirate proves that these rulers own no land, nor do they have any concern for the population living on that land, the paper continued. There is a big difference between owning and operating a petrol station and having a nation and defending its sovereignty, said the daily. The Iraqi aggression perpetrated and hatched by France, the U.S. and Kuwait, no Gulf state or sheikhdom in the Gulf region would be safe from danger, said the paper. It warned against continued hostile attitudes on the part of the Arab states against Iraq which, it said, is a sovereign state that has existed for centuries and whose people are ready to defend their soil in the face of plots and foreign aggression. The paper referred to Moscow's hostile attitude, noting that the Iraqis are not like the Russians or the people of the Soviet Union who saw their empire collapsing and disintegrating without raising a finger and whose leaders are becoming slaves for the U.S. dollar. There is not one Iraqi citizen, said the paper, who would be willing to sacrifice his country's independence for any bribe or any price.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily Wednesday cast a gloomy look at the prospects of peace in the Middle East region expressing doubt about the present Israeli leaders' desire to give up land for peace with the Arabs. Commenting on the resumption of the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations in Washington, Abdul Rahim Omar said that nothing in Mr. Rabin's statements indicates that the man is willing to give the Arabs their lands and their rights in Palestine. The atmosphere of optimism displayed by some parties in Washington is not justified since Mr. Rabin and his Labour government have not yet clearly announced their desire to recognise the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland nor have they recognised U.N. resolution which provide for the exchange of land for peace, the writer said. All the ambitions and the designs planned or hoped for or achieved by the former Likud government are being upheld by the Labour Party and all the lands from which the Likud had said Israel will never pull out are still held by the Labour Party, he said. It is true that Mr. Rabin has filled the world with statements about Israel's desire to reach a settlement with the Arabs, but it is also true that he took no single step to attain that goal, the writer argued. He said that mere talk about peace can yield nothing and until Israel drastically changes its position and give up occupied territory, there can be no room for optimism.

Mideast peace prospects — far less than meets the eye

By Muhammad I. Ayish

WHEN YITZHAK Rabin took office as Israeli prime minister last month, his comeback to the Israeli political power structure at this stage of Mideast political developments was met with widespread euphoria and optimism. Based on his pre-election statements, Mr. Rabin was put on record for opposing the settlement building policies of his predecessor Yitzhak Shamir, for supporting an accelerated establishment of a Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories and for dialing the Shamir methods of handling Israel's external relations with the outside world in general and with the United States in particular.

Although one month is too short a period to enable us to judge the sincerity of Mr. Rabin's rhetoric, the Israeli Labour-led government has so far produced an array of signals, significant enough to convince any human being with a minimum common sense to view actions of that government with profound cynicism. A close observation of the behaviour of Mr. Rabin's government vis-a-vis the Middle East peace process seems to reveal an intrinsically hawkish approach to the Arab-Israeli conflict shrouded in a deceptive public relations apparatus. The central element of Mr. Rabin's strategy draws on distancing himself from the excesses of the outgoing Likud government policies while remaining adamant on earlier Israeli encroachments on Arab rights. Some facts forcefully sub-

stantiate this thesis. First, while Mr. Rabin made a public commitment to freezing the Likud-initiated settlement programme in the occupied Arab territories, his unwavering distinction between "security" and "political" settlements was viewed as cheap public relations. Further doubt was cast on Mr. Rabin's "new" settlement policies when he approved the completion of 11,000 housing units in the occupied Arab lands.

Second, Mr. Rabin's promise to give top priority to establishing an autonomous Palestinian entity in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip seems to have undergone a major metamorphosis when he scaled down his offer to a mere administrative council with no legislative or political authority. This arrangement falls far below national Palestinian expectations of what they should get from a peaceful settlement to the Middle East problem.

Mr. Rabin's "concerns" over Palestinians have never been translated into tangible confidence-building measures as 1.75 million Palestinians continue to live under draconian occupation laws with daily acts of repression. Mr. Rabin's military authorities continue to detain thousands of Palestinians in prisons similar in many ways to Nazi concentration camps. After all, wasn't Mr. Rabin the one who invented and applied the brutal bone-breaking technique on Palestinian children three years ago when he was minister of defence in the Israeli national

coalition government?

Third, Mr. Rabin remains unrelenting on rejecting contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Although his newly-inaugurated government appeared too powerless to take action against members of the Palestinian negotiating team who had met publicly with PLO chief Yasser Arafat in Amman, his blunt attitude towards attempts by some members of his cabinet to call for a reversal of a previous Knesset motion banning Israelis from having contacts with the PLO reflected an unconciliatory approach to this highly sensitive issue.

Fourth, Mr. Rabin does not seem to be caving in to any possible compromise regarding the future of the occupied city of Jerusalem which he always refers to as "the undivided capital of Israel." By doing so, he seems to be perpetuating the hardline convictions of his predecessor who had always maintained that the status of Jerusalem is not negotiable. As the new round of non-stop Arab-Israeli negotiations has just opened in Washington D.C., some people may think that Mr. Rabin's surgical measures with respect to the peace process would be interpreted at best as a gesture of goodwill towards the Arab side. But given the low substance embodied in those measures, one would be inclined to steer the analysis in a direction other than that of showing respect to Arab negotiators. Shrewd, stringently pragmatic

and brutal as he had always proved to be, Mr. Rabin was eying with dislike and even bitterness his predecessor's sabotage of Israeli relations with the United States, the only country in the world capable of maintaining a "qualitative military Israeli edge" over the Arabs. For Mr. Rabin, Mr. Shamir's public advocacy of the notion of a Greater Israel smacked of too much ideological extremism that did not only stain the traditionally bright Israeli image in the United States, but it also prohibited the Jewish state from obtaining the \$10 billion in loan guarantees. By keeping a lid on Israel's settlement expansionism, Mr. Rabin scored his first major victory since taking office. He returned home with a big bundle of money sufficient to woo the admiration of many of his right-wing foes and the loyalty of thousands of new emigrants.

President Bush's praise of Mr. Rabin as a peace maker in front of TV cameras and print media reporters was an additional exploit that would certainly help improve what seemed to be a deteriorating Israeli image in America.

It should be noted here, of course, that the loan guarantee deal was also desperately needed by a beleaguered U.S. president trying to salvage his sagging popularity. Whether by coincidence or deliberate politicking this year's American presidential elections seem to have positively played into Mr. Rabin's hands and he has effectively utilised this

opportunity to his best interest.

The Israeli prime minister's strategy of courting the Bush administration has also paid two other dividends. First, the two U.S. presidential candidates are feverishly competing to call for solidifying U.S. relations with Israel and keeping Jerusalem the undivided capital of the Jewish state.

Mr. Rabin's image in the United States as a peace-maker seemed to have failed to reinforce an environment of "peace discourse" with respect to the Arab side. The infamous CBS-broadcast panel discussion in which influential pro-Israeli figures like Henry Kissinger and Fouad Ajami heaped racist remarks on the Arabs is an example. When Israeli military officials went hawkish in America, accusing Syria of experimenting with Scud missiles, their provocative remarks were not rebuffed by the Bush administration which has repeatedly acknowledged Syria's role in the peace process.

The second dividend of Mr. Rabin's strategy which calls for non-stop negotiations with the Arabs is a staunch American commitment to bringing about a settlement to the 50-year old conflict in two months, just in time for President Bush to prove to foreign-policy weary voters that his Mideast peace sponsorship is indeed fruitful. The main implication of such approach would be further pressure on the Arabs, especially the Palestinians, to come to terms with the Israelis as

soon as possible regardless of how honourable the settlement would be. It is in this line of domestic politics reasoning that Mr. Bush is increasing the heat on the Iraqi government with the ultimate hope of seeing it toppled... again just on time to show American voters that Desert Storm is finally bearing fruitful results.

What may be a source of frustration on the Arab side is that the Israeli "peace strategy" is designed largely to deal with the United States on Mideast peace matters more than with Arab negotiating teams. This is perhaps a result of early miscalculated Arab judgements of American ability to prod Israel into making concessions and insuring Israeli commitment to those concessions.

Given the instable level of American credibility in the Middle East over the past 50 years, the U.S. behaviour in the peace process may look comprehensible. Yet, what many of us could not understand is the fact that an increasingly unpopular president would not hesitate to compromise 50 years of Palestinian national struggle and to hold 18 million Iraqis hostage to attain what in the final analysis boils down to an individual interest: To be president of the most democratic nation on earth!

Muhammad I. Ayish is an associate professor at the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication at Yarmouk University.

Polio and brucellosis outbreaks prompt immediate action

The following article is reprinted from the August issue of "Mother and Child in Jordan", a newsletter about human development issues.

DESPITE THE country's high immunisation coverage, a minor epidemic of poliomyelitis and an outbreak of brucellosis occurred in Jordan recently. The government immediately launched intensified immunisation campaigns, but did not rule out the possibility of further outbreaks until the entire population becomes aware of the need for immunisation and preventive measures.

In the recent epidemic, a total of 55 cases of flaccid paralysis among children were reported, of which 28 cases were proven to be polio, 20 were disproven, and seven are still under investigation. The first cases of paralysis were reported in the Jordan Valley area in November 1991. Laboratory tests did not immediately identify polio, but the Ministry of Health nevertheless promptly embarked on an immunisation drive to cover all children in the area. Samples taken from the affected children were sent to a World Health Organisation laboratory in the Netherlands for analysis, and the results indicated that several of the cases were polio.

The outbreak caused a stir locally as citizens questioned the efficacy of the vaccine used and the comprehensiveness of coverage. It was verified that the vaccine was very efficient and the coverage exceeded 90 per cent, but health officials explained that even such high coverage cannot prevent an outbreak, especially among pockets of the population that are not immunised or do not follow preventive measures.

Polio

Jordan had been free of polio in recent years following the launch of an extensive immunisation programme by the Ministry of Health and WHO in 1979. Polio can be eradicated because it is a purely human disease with no

prolonged carrier state and no animal reservoir, which can be easily prevented by vaccination. However, as more than 95 per cent of infected individuals are symptom free, a single case in a community is treated as an outbreak. Polio can afflict anyone at any age. In Third World countries adults usually have acquired natural immunity from their environment, thus children below the age of five are the primary victims of the disease.

The ministry's nation-wide immunisation drive was assisted by the Rotary Club and UNICEF, who contributed 1,200,000 doses of vaccine. The campaign consisted of a two-week, two-dose vaccination aimed at all children under the age of five (a total population of 640,000).

Dr. Sa'ad Kharabseh, head of the communicable diseases control department of the Ministry of Health, said that 95 per cent of the children were vaccinated with the first dose, and 94 per cent were vaccinated with the second dose. The percentage of children who had received the second dose after receiving the first was 97 per cent. The campaign sought to cover all children regardless of their previous vaccination status. The vaccines were offered free of charge to ensure full coverage of the population at risk.

In a recent interview with the Jordan Times, Dr. Adnan Abbas of the Ministry of Health stated that the goals of the immunisation campaign were to vaccinate all children under five who had not been immunised yet, to re-vaccinate the children who had not developed sufficient immunity, and to replace the offending "wild" virus with a "weak" virus that does not cause the disease.

In an article in the Pediatric Bulletin (vol. 4, no. 2, Jan-March 1992), Dr. Najwa K. Bulos wrote that the occurrence of polio was not anticipated, since outbreaks had occurred frequently in neighbouring countries, and considerable population movements occurred recently between Jordan and these countries. In addition,

according to the Ministry of Health, half of the reported cases were children who had not developed immunity, despite being vaccinated.

Dr. Kharabseh said that while Jordan has a vaccination coverage of 98 per cent, in general only 90-95 per cent of vaccinated children develop immunity. In most cases it must be assumed that the percentage of children who develop immunity does not exceed 90 per cent, given unsanitary environmental conditions. In addition, some sub-populations and pockets of the population that are hard to reach have low vaccination rates, circulate the virus among themselves, and pass it on to the rest of the population, said Dr. Kharabseh.

In the Jordan Valley, the vaccination rate of Pakistani children, for example, does not exceed 50 per cent, and in the recent outbreak two Pakistani children were afflicted," he said.

The population movements that occurred following the Gulf war, when hundreds of thousands of people of various nationalities moved through and into Jordan, also made it more difficult to control the virus and to keep it out of the environment.

"Even though Jordan has a very high vaccination rate, we cannot rule out that this type of epidemic will happen again as

long as surrounding countries are not as committed as we are to the World Health Organisation strategy for the eradication of the polio virus," said Dr. Kharabseh. "Right now our only weapon is vaccination. We strive to increase the percentage of vaccinated children and to keep it high through a continuous vaccination effort." A second factor in preventing the disease is to improve environmental sanitation conditions.

Dr. Kharabseh added that the vaccination campaign was very successful, as no new cases have been reported since its implementation.

Brucellosis

Shortly after the polio epidemic, an outbreak of brucellosis in the Balqa region was reported to the Ministry of Health. This disease is contracted primarily from ill-prepared meats and ill-processed dairy products. The ministry increased its awareness campaign aimed at cattle breeders and dairy farmers, urging them to use safety measures when handling and preparing meats and dairy products. It appealed to stores selling dairy products to deal only with products from known producers and stamped with expiration dates, and to sell only boiled soft white cheese.

Clarification

The article "Amman becomes Mideast hub for Société Générale" (Jordan Times, Aug. 19, 1992) must have been misunderstood as it drew fierce criticism and an accusation of untruthful reporting from both Banque Nationale de Paris (BNP) and Crédit Lyonnais spokespersons.

It was clear, and I would like to emphasise this, that the article was meant to measure the effect of Jordan's economic difficulties in the recent past and that of the Gulf crisis on the presence and business activities of international banks' representative offices in the Kingdom.

It was interesting for us, at least, to find out that while so many representative offices had decided to close down in Jordan Société Générale had opted to strengthen its presence here. In my article, I tried to convey my belief that Société Générale's choice to stay in Jordan, choosing it over Bahrain, was a promotion for Amman and that the decision was to be highly commended.

Based on this, the last thing on my mind was to make an issue of the title of Ms. Mona Dallal, who runs BNP's affairs in Amman.

Whether she holds the title of representative or acting representative or whatever other job title she was given was besides the point for me especially considering the actual job she did for the bank.

In short, I believe my article was balanced, free of bias and had included nothing that harmed or belittled BNP or Crédit Lyonnais in any way.

I do not intend to pursue any further arguments which were raised in BNP's and Crédit Lyonnais' responses (letters to the editor) and I will continue to uphold the principle of credibility for which the Jordan Times stands.

Incidentally, Österreichische Lenden Bank is an Austrian bank and not a German bank as it was erroneously stated in the article. And for that I apologise.

Sami Shafiq,
Economic Editor,
Jordan Times.

LETTERS

Vatican and Israel

To the Editor:

The Vatican recently issued statements and implemented actions towards normalising relations with Israel. Although many countries have, since 1948, normalised relations with Israel, and others have recognised Israel, this did not seem to propagate radical connotations and consequences. However, as the Vatican is the highest Christian authority, its decision to normalise relations with Israel prompts serious reservations.

Historians, political scientists and politicians should be aware that this move might stimulate dramatic historical changes, a new political dilemma, and possibly, radical responses. The decision by the Vatican to normalise relations with Israel actually raises grave questions concerning the criterion which has been established since 1948 and upon which world governments' diplomatic normalisation with and recognition of Israel have been based. If normalisation with or recognition of Israel is indoctrinated with the state of Israel as it stands presently with no defined or recognised borders, then the issue is subject to normal political standards and considerations.

On the other hand, if it is indoctrinated as the Biblical Israel, then this issue commotes perilous consequences regarding the rights of the people of this region, the future of Christianity, and the future status of independent countries and governments which are now members of the United Nations.

Biblical Israel is a perilous issue for the people of this region because it implies the expansion of the present undefined Israel from the Euphrates to the Nile. Therefore, it may be conceived that sooner or later Israel will make war, expose governments and people to harsh terrorism, and deprive the people in this region of their right to live in peaceful and secure homelands.

These postulations deem it necessary that the present undefined state of Israel should state at the United Nations its recognition of the independent states which are presently in the territories from the Euphrates to the Nile, recognise the rights of the region's people to live peacefully and renounce the doctrine of Biblical Israel.

At the same time, Arab diplomacy is responsible for pursuing this issue at the highest levels.

Biblical Israel is a perilous issue threatening Christianity. If the Vatican is to normalise relations with Biblical Israel, it is to be understood that the Vatican considers that this era belongs to old prophecies and to the Old Testament. Therefore, the Vatican would be refuting this era as one of the New Testament, the coming of Christ, and the existence of Christianity.

If this is the case, the Vatican is required to present an acceptable, logical, and fundamental explanation. Otherwise, the Vatican should state publicly and explicitly, that this process of normalisation is with the state of Israel as defined by U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338, while renouncing any implications concerning any possible present or future Biblical Israel. Christian churches worldwide should not tolerate this issue, and they are responsible for requesting a formal explanation from the Vatican — since its very existence and the existence of Christianity are threatened.

Biblical Israel is a perilous issue to world governments. Since Biblical Israel would be a powerful state over a large strategic geographical area, rich with resources, such as oil, and the source of religious and intellectual enlightenments, since present politics is indoctrinated with the ideology of a new world system, and since it is possible for present-day Israel to infuse the notion of powerful Biblical Israel with the ideology of new world system, then all other powers like the U.S. and the EC are in danger of dissolution, as was the case with the USSR.

A powerful Biblical Israel would not allow other powerful states to exist and compete — a well-known lesson from the rise and fall of empires throughout world history.

In conclusion, it is possible that normalisation with and recognition of the present state of Israel with no defined borders is within the context of Biblical Israel. If this is the case, then there is discrimination in favour of the present state of Israel and its long-term goals, against the people of this region, against Christianity, and against present world governments that are members of the United Nations. Therefore, the Vatican and other countries are obligated by conscience and responsibility to fully disclaim and state that such discrimination is groundless, and that no "Biblical Israel" has ever been or will ever be the subject of normalisation of relations or recognition of the state of Israel.

Abraham A. Issa,
ADC Writer's Committee.



Vaccination coverage against polio exceeds 90 per cent in Jordan, yet cannot prevent an outbreak.

بدر الدين عيسى

Like father like son One silenced by the thunder of applause

By Ica Wabbe

Jordan Times Staff Reporter
AMMAN — The burly man with a bushy beard who stood up to greet me, had a very pleasant smile. But life's tribulations had left some visible traces on the young man's face: Crinkles under the eyes which, even when smiling, have a sad look about them.

So the strong, friendly handshake with a fellow journalist came from the advisor to the minister of culture of the past six months, journalist, novelist, and columnist, Munif Al Razzaz.

Word spread out fast that the man who had wrapped himself up in a cocoon of disappointment, and stopped writing, was talking again to reporters. And the Jordan Times went to see him.

The son of one of the most prominent leaders of the Baath Arab Socialist Party (founded by Michel Aflaq), Munif Al Razzaz, our interviewee reminisces impassively about his father.

In 1965, after elections, Munif Al Razzaz became the secretary general of the pan-Arab, national command based in Damascus and left for Syria, where he stayed for one year as leader of the party. A coup inside the party, by army generals, (against him; Mr. Aflaq and the president, Amin Hafez) made him go underground for a year.

He later left for Lebanon, Jordan and in 1977 for Iraq.

In Iraq he was deputy to Saddam Hussein and Shibli Issam, thus being again in a high position of leadership.

In 1979 Mr. Razzaz senior had ideological differences

with Saddam Hussein. "My father wanted to see the whole group of leaders ruling. Saddam treated them like employees, they were not vested with any power," says Munif Al Razzaz. Differences also existed where relationships with other political parties were concerned. "Father wanted the relationship with the Communist Party in Iraq to be open. He wanted good relations with it and with the other parties. Saddam wanted a one-party rule."

So Munif Al Razzaz was put under house arrest for six years, till his death, at 64 years of age, in 1988.

"Do you blame the confinement conditions for his death?"

"He had cerebral haemorrhage; they did not bring an ambulance. They just let him die."

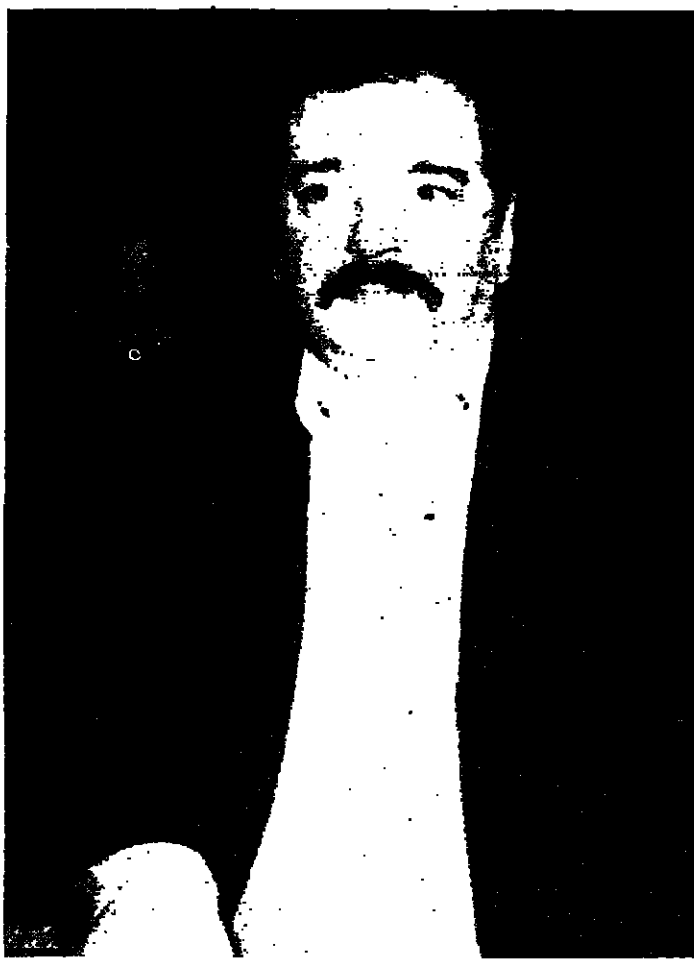
"Do you hold grudges against the Iraqi leader for what happened?"

"I used to until the confrontation (between Iraq and the West). Then I felt that standing by Iraq (as an Arab country, not as leadership) was more important than my personal feelings."

An avowed pan-Arabist, Mr. Razzaz is sceptical about Iraq these days. "Iraq could not do anything except through democracy. I compared Saddam to Nasser. But because he did not have democracy, because he was a dictator, he failed."

The obvious obsession with Iraq stems from Mr. Razzaz's conviction that "Iraq is the example of Arab pride and dignity. It has spirit."

But it does not make him



Munif Al Razzaz

overlook the global situation in the Arab World.

"Look what happened to human rights in the 1950s and 60s when the party (Baath) came to power in Iraq, Syria, even Egypt. I advocate for the human being. I am not asking for Western-type democracy. At least the basic human rights. You cannot kill people every day like ants and say 'I'm fighting the American imperialism'."

Coming back to the pivotal theme of his thoughts, Mr. Razzaz explains that the situation in Iraq is the cause of his "silence" for almost a year now.

"The majority of people in Jordan see only the good side of Saddam. Most writers and people in key positions ask any dissenting voices to forget the dictatorship and stress on his confrontation

with the U.S."

This "psychological war" against "the other voices" is the reason behind Mr. Razzaz's becoming a silent reclus. "In Jordan, if you say you are with the human rights and democracy in Iraq, they say you are pro-American. I do not want to be viewed as such, so I chose silence."

Over months Mr. Razzaz felt he could not write. He stopped writing for three months, then for another two.

"I am sick of writing now and even of speaking. Although they are speaking of democracy, in Jordan there is terror. Not by the state, (but) by most of the writers. People are so anxious to see the Arabs facing imperialism, they forget about basic human rights. These are always linked to the West."

So while he is making a statement with his silence against what he views as psychological terrorism, Mr. Razzaz is seeking a solution through spiritual escapism. He embraced Sufism, a philosophy of life founded in Jordan by Hazem Abu Ghazaleh, that advocates isolation and rejects material things.

"I am not a member of the group anymore, but I practise it alone."

He rejects charges that he is trying to find the easiest way out by running away from humanity. "It is true I do not have a social life anymore and I do not want to write anymore, but writing (now) has become meaningless, futile, because it overlooks the negative things and

detaches itself from the critical, rational position."

Refusing to compete with the contestants of the "long marathon of campaigning and propaganda" writings of today, Mr. Razzaz professes being a "committed, responsible writer who respects his mind and that of his readers" and does not want to join the ranks of those who "try to kill all wishes and aspirations of the Arab Nation."

Born 40 years ago in Amman, the prolific writer has written six novels and two volumes of short stories. The novels, for which Mr. Razzaz won the National Literary Prize in 1990 and which are bestsellers in Jordan, treat the issues of human rights, dictatorship and "dreams which went to the dogs."

And that being the writer's main preoccupation, the subject inevitably comes back to Iraq. "I do not see a clash between facing the West and having democracy. If only Iraq were a democratic country, it could win the confrontation."

Reinforcing his position, Mr. Razzaz concedes that at any time, in the case of an Arab country facing problems, he would side with the sister country.

A staunch pan-Arabist, he also admits that the refusal to write comes from the desire to "not be labeled as pro-American" just because he is asking for the respect of human rights in Iraq.

Will his isolation last for a long time?

"I do not know. Maybe for ever."

We certainly hope not.

BOOK REVIEW Poverty and vulnerability

Peasants And Politics In The Modern Middle East

Edited by Farhad Kazemi and John Waterbury

Florida International University Press, Gainesville, Fla 1992 \$38.50/\$17.95 (p/b)

"Yonder peasant who is he?" A defiant creature, he defies categorisation, and according to Professor Waterbury, one of the editors of this symposium, were need expect no "overarching paradigm" to explain peasant politics or rural violence. His academic collaborators agree, and in their respective studies of provincial unrest in Ottoman and modern times in Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Turkey, Palestine, Tunisia and Iran they find a mixture of "fiscal revolt, political insurgency and social movement," and that action takes various forms, from surreptitious harassment, dissimulation, desertion, sabotage, squatting, arson and pilferage, to outright rebellion.

Professor Kazemi carefully analyses the rebellions which occurred amongst the Jangalis in Iran in 1920, in Iraq about the same time, and in Anatolian Kurdistan in 1925, and others examine the uprisings which took place in Egypt 1919 and in Palestine in 1936. As to causes, they perceive in most cases a certain nationalist element, but a more significant religious motivation, and they show that rural dissidence may be directed no less against "progressive" than oppressive government.

Professor Timothy Mitchell identifies as inarticulate "culture of fear" in Egyptian villages, which induces attitudes inaccessible to external research. "Those who live intolerable lives," he suggests, "suffering from poverty, unemployment, malnutrition and other more direct forms of coercion, must somehow express their condition and yet may be unable to find the opportunity, the courage or the language to do so."

But these studies do not stick to generalisations. Dr. Ahmad Ashraf traces the course of land reform legislation in Iran, from Arsanjani's radical effort ("criminal landowners, beloved peasants") and the shah's "White Revolution," to the Islamic law of 1980, abolished in 1982, defeated by the clergy and commercial interest. In vivid detail Professor Hopkins and Professor Safizadeh explore relationships in particular villages in Egypt and Tunisia and in Azerbaijan, which they have researched in person.

Poverty and vulnerability, it is concluded, are inherent in rural society in the Middle East. Doubtless protest and resistance will endure, for peasants are not so dumb as they are sometimes supposed to be. "Ma fish hukuma" the fallahin cried, meaning roughly "to hell with the government." But in future, according to Professor Waterbury's prediction, "The only rural violence we are likely to witness will be ostensibly ethnic or confessional in nature."

A.R.H. Kellas

Futility breeds tension in Bulgarian gypsy ghetto

By Elizabeth Konstantinova
Reuter

PLOVDIV, Bulgaria — Gambling, theft, murder, prostitution and juvenile crime are rampant in the gypsy quarter of Plovdiv, Bulgaria's second largest city.

About 25,000 gypsies, some crammed 20 to a room, live in run-down apartment blocks in the Stolipinovo district of Plovdiv, 150 kilometres south east of the capital Sofia.

Overwhelmed by a sense of futility amid huge unemployment, many have turned to crime.

Gypsies make up almost one-tenth of Bulgaria's 8.5 million population. They live on the margins of society. Half are believed to be jobless.

Gypsy community leader Manush Romanov said

Bulgarian gypsies came from the Punjab region of India around the 10th century.

They were nomadic until the 1960s, when the Communist authorities began a campaign of forcible assimilation, severely curbing their religious and cultural practices.

They were forced to settle in Soviet-style collective farms or in housing projects built especially for them.

Currently some 850,000 gypsies are scattered through the cities of Sofia, Plovdiv, Sliven, Varna, Rousse and Vidin. Most are concentrated in housing projects like Stolipinovo and face similar problems.

About eight gypsy organisations are pressing for equal participation by their community in the social, economic and political life of the country.

But Mr. Romanov, who leads the "Roma" Union, biggest of the gypsy organisations, says the government ignores them.

A government official said gypsies now have equal access to all walks of life. The main problem was to provide better educational facilities and other social benefits — but this would take money, which was scarce these days.

In the Stolipinovo ghetto, meanwhile, a policeman predicted: "We'll have Los Angeles style riots here soon."

Tension runs high. The recent arrest of a petty thief sparked off clashes between police and gypsies in which a bystander was killed by a stray bullet, several gypsies were wounded and a policeman badly beaten.

Ethnic friction has driven some non-gypsies from their homes in Stolipinovo, even

though housing is short in Plovdiv and rents are soaring.

"It is impossible to live amid constant muggings, noise and round-the-clock drinking parties. The lives of our children are endangered," said Ivanka Radoeva, a 41-year-old housewife.

Sheep and goats bleat from the balconies and windows of gypsy flats. Naked infants crawl through dust and shattered glass. Old men scavenge through garbage heaps.

Apartment block landings are used for cooking fires, locals say. Wedding parties often end in fights and shootings.

More than 30 per cent of murders and 40 per cent of robberies in Bulgaria are committed by gypsies, according to Interior Ministry Chief Secretary Bogomil

Bonev.

"For years the problems of the gypsies have been underestimated," says Romanov. "They are neglected by all city council services. There are inadequate education facilities."

Gypsies were too under-qualified to get decent jobs, he said. "These people need proper education, social care and jobs."

But with Bulgaria's economy crumbling, city officials say there is scant money in the budget for social care. "We are the first to be fired every time there are redundancies in factories. How can we make a living?" complained Assan Hatmetov, a 36-year-old taxi driver and father of 12 children.

Bulgarian firms struggling during the transition from state control to market economy have been laying off staff since the Communists

were ousted two years ago.

"The gypsies have no other alternative than to get involved in illegal deals," says Plovdiv Police Chief Ivan Georgiev.

"With unemployment up to 80 per cent in the district, the crime rate is inevitably rising," he told Reuters.

Police say crime in the gypsy quarter is running seven times higher than in other parts of the city.

Scores of gambling dens, pornographic video clubs and brothels flourish in Stolipinovo.

Several other towns in the area with large gypsy populations face the same problems, Chief Georgiev said.

"The rubbish has not been picked up for weeks, street sweepers don't bother to come near. Police patrol cars are the only regular visitors here," Mr. Hatmetov said.

Russia's penal system under pressure to reform

by Fiona Fleck
Reuter

MOSCOW — The arrival and departure times of the Stolypin wagons are as secret as their movements across the expanses of the Russian Federation, the largest country in the world.

Few recognise them as they criss-cross the country's vast railway network, delivering cargoes of convicts to remote places on the edge of civilisation.

The convicts — "zeks" in prison slang — are not political prisoners like writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn's characters, who were jailed on charges of anti-Soviet activities.

These are real criminals condemned to several years in forced labour camps for theft, embezzlement, murder and rape.

"The zeks" are brought to secret depots, where they are

loaded into the Stolypin wagons," said Sergei, who spent two years in a forced-labour camp for stealing sausage from the state meat factory where he worked to sell on the blackmarket.

"The wagons are later coupled to post, goods and sometimes passenger trains."

Prisoners are packed 14 to a carriage built for six.

Unable to see through the dark reinforced-glass windows, they judge day and night by rare beams of sunlight that seep through the cracks in their metal cages.

"Each prisoner is rationed to half a loaf of bread, some salt fish and a few grammes of sugar for the journey out to the 'zone', which can take up to five days," he said.

"The zeks boil water in metal vessels held over burning rags to make 'chefir'." This is a viscous, bitter tea, prepared like coffee and which, when very strong, acts

like an anaesthetic.

The convict wagons are named after Pyotr Stolypin, Russia's prime minister at the beginning of the century. He used them to transport thousands of peasants to the once wild and uninhabited regions of Siberia.

But the system of transporting prisoners was established in the late 19th century when Russia first built her railways.

Since then little has changed. Stolypin wagons are a symbol of the country's antiquated system of forced labour.

"The prisoners are never told where they are going," Sergei said. "They can only guess when they leave Moscow from the direction in which they depart."

All that is certain is that they will end up in one of the "zones", probably felling trees and processing timber. Many are sent to the north-

ern Urals, Siberia and regions near the edge of the Arctic Circle, where only convicts do hard labour. They have no choice.

Even former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, who introduced liberal reforms, did not extend them to the forced labour system.

On the contrary, in 1988 he made the system more effective, by relocating convicts to the places with the most work.

According to Sergei, prisoners say they are constantly on the move to prevent them from forming strong alliances which could lead to rebellion.

Russia has only 14 prisons, but more than 1,000 camps and colonies where the bulk of the 530,000 convicts — men, women and teenagers — provide cheap "slave labour", according to prison reformer Valery Abramkin.

Mr. Abramkin says that since the failed August coup

last year, there have been around 800 incidents in prisons and camps of hunger strikes and riots.

In Krasnoyarsk about 2,500 prisoners armed with sticks and knives rioted for 40 days, he said. Eventually the revolt was crushed when 1,500 soldiers surrounded the camp.

"During the coup prisoners sided with the democrats and the prison officers sided with coup leaders," Mr. Abramkin said. "When the prisoners side triumphed, they felt a sense of betrayal when nothing was done to improve their lot."

The Russian government recently introduced legislation increasing prisoners' rights. Now they can phone home, correspond freely with family and friends, go home on leave, keep a savings account and take out insurance.

But Mr. Abramkin said that as long as the system of forced labour remained in place, the situation in Russia's penal colonies was potentially explosive.

"From the moment the 'Gulag system' began right up to the present day, it has been one vast industry, created to solve economic problems by using the slave labour of convicts," he wrote in a commentary in the newspaper Rossiiskaya Gazeta.

"The terrible thing about forced labour is that it breaks down the will, the self-respect, of prisoners and turns them into frightened and slavishly obedient automata. It is a form of torture."

Since last autumn, Mr. Abramkin's Centre for Penal Reform has received more than 1,000 letters from prisoners complaining of inhuman conditions in penal camps and demanding the abolition of forced labour.

Cystic fibrosis mouse may expedite cure

By Paul Recer
The Associated Press
WASHINGTON — Experimental cystic fibrosis drugs that can require up to a year to test in human patients may be tested in only 15 days with a new genetically-altered mouse developed by U.S. researchers.

Scientists at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, report in a study that they have manipulated the genetic structure in a strain of mice and created the first animal model of cystic fibrosis, one of the most common inherited lethal disorders.

Leaders of the Cystic Fibrosis (CF) Foundation called development of the CF mouse "a major victory."

"This model provides scientists with a critical new tool to develop treatments for CF," said Robert K. Dresing, president of the CF Foundation, which paid for some of the work. "It should also significantly speed our progress toward the ultimate cure."

Dr. Richard Boucher, co-author of the CF mouse study published in the journal Science, said the new mouse "will allow us to answer questions in a safe manner" and arrive at an understanding of CF that is not even possible now.

And it should speed development of new drugs, he said.

"CF is a chronic disease and most kids live until age 26 or so. To really answer whether a drug is useful takes six to 12 months," said Dr. Boucher. "In mice you can answer that question in perhaps 15 days."

About 30,000 Americans have cystic fibrosis and about 1,400 fresh U.S. cases are

diagnosed annually. It is a genetic disorder, which is passed from parents to children, and it is estimated that more than 12 million Americans — about one in 20 carry the CF gene.

The disorder causes a breakdown of a system that removes salt from cells lining the lungs, the intestines and some other organs. The disorder leads to formation of a thick, sticky mucus that can block the intestines or prevent the secretion of enzymes from the pancreas. Most CF deaths, however, occur when mucus clogs the lungs and leads to infection and progressive lung damage.

To make the CF mouse, North Carolina researcher John N. Snowwaert inserted into the cells of mouse embryos a mutated gene that replaced the normal genes in some of the cells.

"The result is that you disrupt the normal function of the (displaced) gene," said Snowwaert. "It no longer makes the protein that in normal people would prevent them from having cystic fibrosis."

The embryonic cells with the altered genes were put into other mouse embryos, which were then implanted into a foster mother mouse whose offspring are what scientists call "mosaic mice." These are mice whose cells are a mosaic of genetic patterns, with some cells containing the normal pattern and others have the altered version.

"When the offspring of mosaic mice are bred together, about one in four will carry the altered gene and have the mouse version of cystic fibrosis," said Dr. Snowwaert.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Aug. 27

8:30 The Simpsons

9:00 N.B.A. Basketball

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film

White Hot

A movie about the mysterious death of a famous actress, Thelma Todd

Starring: Loni Anderson, Robert Dan and Paul Dooley.

Friday, Aug. 28

8:30 The Golden Girls

9:10 Root Into Europe

10:00 News In English

10:20 El C.I.D.

11:10 The Powers That Be
The senator's wife tries in every possible way to get an invitation to London with Princess Diana.

Saturday, Aug. 29

8:30 Super Bloopers

9:00 Encounter

9:30 Varieties

10:00 News In English

10:20 French Feature Film

Casimir

Fernandele, who works as a representative of a company that sells vacuum cleaners, faces many funny situations. One of them is when he goes to the house of a surrealist painter and tries to convince him to buy a vacuum cleaner.

Sunday, Aug. 30

8:30 Wings

Mother Wore Stripes

The mother of Joe and Brian shows up for a visit after eighteen years.

9:10 Documentary-A Thousand Cranes

Seven years after dropping the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, cancer symptoms begin to appear on the survivors.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Midnight Caller

That's Amore

An Italian love story and revenge.

Monday, Aug. 31

8:30 Close to Home

Mum's The Word

Who is going to have a baby?

9:10 Gone To The Dogs

10:00 News In English

10:20 Strauss Family

Anne is angry at her son, Johan, because of his affair with an infamous woman from Vienna.

Tuesday, Sept. 1

8:30 Acropolis Now

9:00 Mr. Bean

9:30 TECX

Dead End

A Japanese industrial firm tries to get into the arms industry in Europe.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Oscar Film

The Scarlet Pimpernel

Starring: Leslie Howard and Merle Oberon.

An English nobleman's role during and after the French Revolution.

Wednesday, Sept. 2

8:30 Saved By The Bell

All the girls want to dance with Zack.



Paul Nicholas in Close To Home

9:00 Perspective

9:30 Man Of The People

Mr. Doyle Goes To Vegas

James will accompany Rita to Las Vegas to attend the American Mayors' Convention.

10:00 News In English

10:20 The Good Guys

The Good Guys

Janie runs away from her husband Nick after he starts to have doubts about her relationship with her tennis coach. She meets a photo journalist.

Perseverance pays off

By E. Yaghi

This summer gave the delusive impression of being the longest, hardest, hottest one that Carol remembered since coming to Jordan. However, the summer session at the university was almost over and the appropriate time for registration for the fall courses had arrived. At 1 o'clock she strolled down the university sidewalk with a fellow student of hers and chatted about familiar shared college experiences. She and her friend sat down under the shade of a tired row of pine trees, drank soda and watched throngs of students nonchalantly pass by. "Well, Noha, how did you fare in your summer courses?" Carol asked as she gazed at the scene before her.

"Not so bad. There may be a course that I might not pass. Everything depends on the final exam." The girl answered.

"Those finals are rough, aren't they?" Carol replied as she knowingly shook her head in agreement as she gazed glassy eyed in front of her. "I don't know how I am going to make it studying. My son just arrived late in the evening two days ago and next week our concluding exams will take place. There will be a lot of relatives coming to our house to welcome him so it's going to be difficult to study when all this activity is going on."

After a while she looked at her watch and said, "It's just about time for my registration. I'd better get going. I don't want to be late."

Both stood up. "Have you got your schedule arranged and do you know which subjects you're going to take?" Noha asked her.

"Yes, unless the classes are full and I have to choose another subject instead." Carol answered as she prepared her bag. "If that happens, I'll be in a mess trying to write them. Thanks Noha, see you later."

"Sure, I've got to go to my class now too. Good luck." The two females hurried off in opposite directions. The younger, Noha, to her class and the older, Carol, to the registration building. "I hope I don't have any problems this time like I did the last." She said to herself as she quickened her pace.

Everything seemed deceptively calm and serene on the way to the building. Small clusters of students passed her enveloped in conversation and nothing looked out of order. But when she approached the registration building's entrance, pupils swarmed even at the door and further inside at the allotted sections of registration, they were as thick as bees on honey. But somehow the whole affair didn't strike Carol as sweet. She struggled through the outer layer of girls and tried to weave a path to her sector. Finally, she stood the last one in a mob of applicants as students, mostly females, pushed and shoved and squashed each other in the battle for enrollment. She managed to near the counter and pass her registration slip containing her courses to the clerk at the computer who tallied the applications. She tried to remain as near as possible to the counter and at one time even placed her arm on the wooden structure in order to secure a place should any student leave. One girl next to her eyed her with vengeance and tossed her arm back to her. "Huh-uh?" Carol asked. The offended girl didn't even bother to answer but instead glared a nasty look which was full of sharp darts.

The principal of the whole affair stood inside the fenced off area at a distance with one hand on his hip looking very important but he added neither calm nor order to the whole scene. Another clerk began to mumble names that were to be printed on the computer but no one could hear any name read above all the confusion, pushing, pulling and shouting. Carol squeezed herself in between angry snatching students only to see her paper waved off to another section and placed on the bottom. She hurried off to the other designated section and again battled for a place in yet another mob of students who also smashed, pulled, tugged, cursed and screamed at each other. "This must be madness," she said to herself. "Why aren't they organised? Why is everything so disorderly and no one is respected for age or sex or even treated like a human being?"

A weary clerk punched computer buttons and did his best to go through the huge pile of applications. Along came another clerk who tried to be helpful and divided the pile into halves, shoving the newly divided pile towards another section. Again, names were read of those assigned to another stall. Carol's name was one of them and again her name which had finally neared the top of the pile was overturned and placed on the bottom. "That's really great! If I'm lucky, I'll get home by twelve midnight at this rate!" she whispered to no one.

At last, her name was called and to her grim expectations, some of her choices were cancelled. She ran out to where the subjects were listed and wrote two new ones, but when she went back she had to queue behind a massive crowd of students all over again. She had entered the building at 2 p.m. By 5:30, she had at last completed her registration and with a sigh of relief, hauled herself out of the building so she could look for a taxi and crawl home. With great effort she dragged herself out of the campus and hailed a cab. She threw herself down on the car seat exhausted and breathing heavily exclaimed, "I've never seen anything like today in all my life! I do wish they would learn how to register the students more efficiently, it would be so much easier on the staff as well as on us."

She arrived home pulverised. Her husband and children greeted her and she said apologetically: "I finally registered. However, I am sorry for the delay. I told you I would probably only be an hour or two, but instead stayed the entire afternoon."

The next day proved unbearably hot. Fortunately, it was Thursday and there were no classes so Carol didn't have to go anywhere. She managed to get up but her back felt like a hundred people had been stomping on it and she looked as if she had been run over by a steamroller. For the duration of the day she dragged herself through her housework and tried to study in between all the relatives' visits. It took about three days after the registration to get back to normal. When at last she completed her final exams she moaned relief and said to her conscience: "This summer has been very rough, but now I am convinced that I'm six months wiser than I was before I entered the university and six months luckier too. It's unimaginably difficult to study, be a wife and mother and also play hostess to all the company that comes to our house, butlike Ulysses in Alfred Lord Tennyson's poem, I'm going to strive, seek, experience and become a part of all that I meet as long as God wills and never give up my search for knowledge."

Dutch breadman sacrifice creates wave of protest

By Esther Hansen-Loeve

Reuter

AMSTERDAM — A sinful, pagan joke, a decadent waste of food or a threat to the environment?

Plans by a small Dutch group to offer a human-shaped electricity pylon packed with bread as a "national gift to the sea" have confused much of the population and provoked protest from environmentalists, churchmen and politicians.

The 100 metre (330 feet) pylon now looks like the ancient druid "wicker man" — a human-shaped structure containing animals which was one burnt as an offering to the gods.

Strange as the project may seem, the organisers say it is perfectly simple and no joke. Holland has taken so much from the sea that the sea now deserves something in return, they say.

"No country owes so much to the sea as the Netherlands," said the Cargo Foundation, which initiated the project, in an open letter to the Dutch people.

Over the past two centu-

ries, the Dutch have turned vast areas of seabed into highly fertile land.

So the foundation plans to commit the pylon, crammed with 20,000 loaves — produce of 2.5 acres (one hectare) of reclaimed land — to the waves in a sacrificial ritual during the September spring-tide.

The statue's skeleton will be recovered after 30 days.

The government banned the project after receiving protest petitions signed by 33,000 people.

A study carried out for the Ministry of Transport and Waterworks said dumping the bread into the sea would equal the pollution of one day's total waste output from a middle-sized town. The bread would draw too much oxygen from the water and, anyway, it could be disposed of on land.

Cargo has appealed against the ban and promised to inject oxygen into the sea to counter any negative effects.

The foundation remains convinced the project will go ahead in some form or other, saying that if its appeal is

turned down, it will dump the breadman into international waters.

"Then it will be an international gift to the sea instead of a national one," said Cargo spokesman Ron Peperkamp.

Clergymen have also condemned the ceremony. "They say it's a pagan ritual," said Mr. Peperkamp, who finds this the project's most appealing aspect.

The foundation's name is inspired by a "cargo cult," practiced in and around Papua New Guinea.

"People there give each other an object with something in it and then pass it on after having replaced the contents," Mr. Peperkamp explained.

But most people see the breadman project as a scandalous waste.

Mr. Peperkamp counters: "The amount of grain we are using is what the mice eat in the warehouses of the European Community."

He adds that the bread is not fit for human consumption.

A special recipe prescribes water from the IJsselmeer —

a finger of the North Sea cut off by a dike — and Dutch grain, which is usually used only as animal feed.

"I tried some and it tasted all right, but here and there it contains shells and fish," said Hans Bellekamp, one of the volunteers baking bread for Cargo during their summer holidays.

Apart from children — who, according to Mr. Peperkamp, immediately grasp the idea because of its simplicity — most visitors are puzzled.

For 10 guilders (\$6) they can buy a loaf for the breadman. All sponsors will be invited to the sinking ceremony.

The 750,000 guilder (\$400,000) project depends completely on donations. Larger sponsors range from businessmen to scientists and artists who welcomed the national gift to the sea as an important celebration of the Dutch cultural identity.

"Just before the Netherlands goes under in the Europe of 1992, this small country will show once more what a unique relationship it has with the sea," Cargo said.

Baby-faced robbers are new terrorism threat to banks

By Andrew Okun

Reuter

LOS ANGELES — Law enforcement authorities in this city, dubbed the bank robbery capital of the world, voice growing concern about baby-faced robbers who are more violent, better armed and more likely to kill than old-time crooks.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Los Angeles Police Bank Robbery Squad say the threat comes from teenage gangsters who think they can get away with terrorising bank staff and customers because their age means a light sentence if they are caught.

"These guys come running into the bank yelling. Sometimes they fire a few shots into the ceiling and there's really no way to hide," said Lieutenant Ken Lady, head of the police robbery squad. "It's really a form of terrorism even if they don't fire any shots."

His concern was echoed by FBI agent Joanne Wilfert, who pointed to a dramatic increase in the number of incidents involving robbers seizing control of a bank.

More than 200 of the 1,516 bank robberies committed in the Los Angeles area in the first seven months of this year involved terrorist-like takeovers, compared with just over 50 in the same period last year, Ms. Wilfert said.

"In the past, a takeover would involve two people, perhaps a third as a lookout. They were older and rarely hurt anyone as they got in and out of the bank quickly," she said.

"Now, as many as five people enter the bank, push people around, steal personal items such as watches in addition to the bank's money, and are not afraid to shoot," she said.

In the latest bank takeover, two teenage boys too young to be identified were arrested last week along with a 45-year-old man during a robbery in which police gunned down a fourth gangster who opened fire on them.

Police Lieutenant Jim McCulloch said the four burst into the bank in a Los Angeles suburb with guns blazing. No one was shot but a female bank employee was pistol-whipped.

It was not known if a street gang was behind the botched robbery but FBI agent John Hoos said many takeovers are the work of such groups, who see banks as a better source of money than their traditional targets — convenience stores.

"It's obvious they've figured out there's more money in banking institutions than in convenience stores," Officer Hoos said.

Lt. Lady said the young thugs are often recruited in Fagin-like fashion by older gang members. The teenagers rob a bank and take the money to the older gangster.

"The thinking is if they are caught they'll go to juvenile court and won't go to prison for that long, but some end up being tried as adults anyway," Lt. Lady said.

Although no bank staff or customers have been killed in a bank robbery in Los Angeles this year, law officers fear it may be just a matter of time.

Whether there is shooting or not, moreover, these innocent people suffer psychological trauma in a takeover, officer Hoos said.

"If someone walked up to

you and put a gun to your head and said 'give me your money or I'll blow your head off,' it's got to affect you," he said.

Ms. Wilfert said the number of robberies this year would undoubtedly surpass last year's total of 2,355.

"We attribute a lot of the increase to the branch banking system," she said, noting that many of the 3,500 branches in the area stay open for extended hours and are located near freeway entrances, convenient for robbers and customers alike.

More than 80 per cent of the bank robbers are eventually caught, in part because most of them hit a series of banks, not just one, allowing agents to gather a large amount of evidence and security camera videotape, the FBI said.

Bank robbers face 20-year sentences without parole — 25 years if they use a gun. With the average take in a bank robbery last year only \$2,800, that works out to \$140 for every year of a 20-year sentence, officer Hoos said.

"It's a stupid crime, really," he said.

Thursday, Aug. 27

1640 — Flemish forces under Count Tilly defeat Denmark's King Christian IV at Lutter, east Germany, placing all north Germany at mercy of Catholic League.

1758 — Russian troops withdraw after indecisive battle with Prussians at Zorn-dorf, Poland.

1789 — French National Assembly adopts Declaration of the Rights of Man.

1828 — Uruguay is formally proclaimed independent at preliminary peace talks between Brazil and Argentina.

1891 — France and Russia sign an entente.

1928 — Kellogg-Briand Pact is signed in Paris, outlawing war and providing for peaceful settlement of disputes.

1939 — Nazi Germany demands Danzig and the Polish corridor.

1943 — Japanese forces evacuate New Georgia Island in the Pacific in World War II.

1945 — U.S. troops begin landing in Japan at end of World War II.

1966 — French President Charles De Gaulle arrives in Ethiopia from Somaliland, where his visit was marred by bloody rioting.

1969 — Israeli commando force penetrates deep into Egyptian territory to stage mortar attack on regional army headquarters in Nile Valley of Upper Egypt.

1971 — Attempted coup fails in African nation of Chad, and government accuses Egypt of playing role in the attempt and breaks diplomatic relations.

1972 — U.S. jets bomb Haiphong, North Vietnam's major port.

1985 — Nigerian officers announce military coup d'etat, and say army chief of staff is asked to form new government.

1986 — Twelve blacks are shot dead by police in Soweto, and town councillor is hacked to death in worst riots in more than a year in South Africa.

1987 — Hundreds of strikers battle riot police in at least two South Korean cities.

1988 — Muslim guerrillas hold two Afghan provincial capitals and battle the regular Communist army for two others.

1990 — Nearly 200 miners die in an explosion near Dobrinja in Yugoslavia's worst ever mine accident.

1991 — During session of national legislature, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev appeals to 15 Soviet republics to at least preserve military and economic union.

Friday, Aug. 28

1532 — Suleiman I, Sultan of Turkey, ravages Carinthia and Croatia.

1574 — Treaty of Bristol settles commercial disputes between English and Spanish merchants.

1619 — Gabor Bethlen of Transylvania invades Hungary.

1640 — Scots defeat British force at Newburn-On-Tyne.

1793 — British force under Admiral Alexander Hood occupies Toulon, France.

1833 — British parliament bans slavery throughout British Empire.

1848 — Boers are defeated at Boomplaat by British forces and retire across Vaal River, thus insuring Orange River sovereignty.

1849 — Venice, Italy, submits to Austria after long siege.

1879 — British troops capture Cetwayo in Zulul war with Africa.

1910 — Montenegro is proclaimed independent kingdom under Nicholas I.

1928 — All-party congress at Lucknow, India, votes for dominion status within British Empire.

1943 — Japanese resistance ends on island of New Georgia in the Solomons during World War II.

1973 — Earthquake hits area southwest of Mexico City, killing 500 people and injuring 1,000 others.

1975 — France flies troops

and police to its Mediterranean island of Corsica to quell demonstrations for autonomy.

1986 — Bolivian government imposes nationwide state of siege in response to march to La Paz by about 7,000 miners opposed to closing of mines.

1988 — Italian Air Force jet collides in air with two other jets, plunges into a crowd of spectators at air show in Ramstein, West Germany, killing at least 45 people and injuring about 500.

1989 — Police say masked Sikh gunmen raid passenger train in India's Punjab state and massacre at least 22 Hindu passengers.

1990 — Kuwait is declared 19th province of Iraq.

1991 — New York subway operator is charged with manslaughter after his train derailed, killing five and injuring 133.

Saturday, Aug. 29

1499 — Turkish forces take Lepanto in Greece.

1842 — Anglo-Chinese war ends with Treaty of Nanking, whereby Canton, Shanghai and Chinese ports are opened to British commerce and Britain obtains large indemnity.

1903 — Russia's Finance Minister Count Witte is dismissed, which is taken as victory for group favouring Russian expansion in Manchuria and Korea.

1935 — Queen Astrid of Belgium is killed in car accident in Switzerland.

1943 — Danish warships are scuttled at Copenhagen in World War II uprising against Nazis.

1945 — U.S. General Douglas MacArthur leaves Manila for Japan to accept Japanese surrender.

1960 — Jordan's Premier Hazza Al Majali is assassinated.

1965 — U.S. astronauts L. Gordon Cooper and Charles Conrad make safe landing in Atlantic after record eight days orbit around Earth.

1972 — North and South

Korean Red Cross officials meet in North Korea openly for first time to discuss reunifying divided families.

1978 — China's Communist Party Chairman Hua Guofeng completes visit to Eastern Europe, symbolising historic break with China's traditional isolation.

1987 — Two bombs explode five minutes apart in crowded main square in Syrian-policed Tripoli in Lebanon, killing three people and wounding 25.

1988 — Two Soviets and an Afghan blast off from a Central Asian space centre to join cosmonauts seeking an endurance record aboard an orbiting Soviet space station.

1990 — Armenia's parliament declares emergency rule, bans nationalist paramilitary group and blocks roads around republic's capital after string of attacks leaves Armenian legislator dead.

1991 — Soviet lawmakers suspend Communist Party, activities nationwide and freeze its bank accounts because of party's role in failed coup attempt.

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1914 — German forces take Amiens in France during World War I.

1916 — Turkey declares war on Russia; Paul Von Hindenburg is named German chief of general staff.

1944 — Russian forces enter Bucharest, Romania, in World War II.

1951 — United States and the Philippines sign mutual

Karaoke craze — high tech answer to sing-along tradition

By Robert Shelton

LONDON — As any owner of a TV, hi-fi, computer or auto will readily tell you, the Japanese know a thing or two about the business of exporting. Japan's sing-along Karaoke craze is the latest export to cause a stir. Not only has Karaoke become a staple in the bars and pubs of Britain, there are now Karaoke machines for use in your own home. And smaller models of the sound and vision gadgets can change your taxi ride through slow traffic into a vocal diversion for driver and passenger alike.

This latest fad from the "Land of the Rising Sun" is part electronic, part musical. There's more than a bit of attention-seeking vanity in Karaoke, and a touch of madness, too. Karaoke means "invisible band" or "empty orchestra," that emptiness to be filled in by live singing. The machines provide playback of tape, disc or laserdisc, with simultaneous video screening of the lyrics and endless visual variations behind the words. Microphone and amplifier for the singer complete the array, for above all, the amateur singer must be seen and heard as part of Karaoke's special lure.

Some of the best club and party equipment can cost up to £8,000 (about \$15,300). The Karaoke home machine, which costs only £80 (\$153), has been selling briskly in the last few months. The sets are said to be adding still another home entertainment piece of machinery to houses crowded with other Japanese exports. In its Japanese incarnation, Karaoke has been a growing trend since the 1970s. The Hollywood thriller *Black Rain*, starring Michael Douglas, showed Karaoke in a Japanese club. Patrons queued to get onstage for their three minutes of fame at the microphone, no matter how bad or good their singing. With the lyrics and backing supplied, almost anyone can try to be a crooner, jiver or outright rocker.

"It's a chance to live out your fantasies about being a Tom Jones or an Elvis Presley," according to one KJ (Karaoke jockey) in Britain, who calls himself Tokyo Joel. Joel Yang was born in Hong Kong 25 years ago. He says he lived in Japan for 10 years before moving to the U.K. For about £200 (\$382) a night, Tokyo Joel hires out his £4,000 (\$7,640) machine, his stock of recordings and videos for parties, hotels and pubs. "I use a CD (compact disc) player for sound, plus videos, and also a laserdisc that gets music and images out of the same groove, definitely the latest thing," he explains.

"Call me whatever you like, just call me," he adds, saying he's described as KJ, or DJ (disc jockey), presenter, host, or MC (master of ceremonies). "It's a lot more than equipment," Joel emphasises. The skill lies in creating a friendly atmosphere with your chat. I try to keep as much variety in the music going all the time, to appeal to different age groups and tastes. You need to establish a party atmosphere that gets infectious from one to another, even in a roomful of strangers." After that, Tokyo Joel says, "the dynamics of Karaoke simply take over. For me, it's hard work, but it's fun, too. A lot more fun than just being a disc jockey talking between musical tracks. The problem for us independents is the growing tendency for pub chains to buy their own equipment. It makes it difficult to get as many bookings as I'd like."

"Karaoke is more than a fad, it's a movement," according to an Englishman who's deeply involved in training presenters. Andy Benson is founder of the Academy of Karaoke in London. He runs all-day courses (for a fee of £80 [\$153]) all around Britain for an assortment of people who dream of fame and fortune as KJs. "There may be as many as 10,000 Karaoke sessions in Britain every month," says Benson. "Club owners love it because Karaoke will pack the people in, and as the evening proceeds they'll sell floods of beer and colas."

Karaoke presenters often say it's all just a new wrinkle on British sing-alongs from music-halls and pubs, a 150-year-old tradition. If you want to take it as a new wave in folk singing, then you'd have to date the tradition back to pre-history and chanting around ancient bonfires.

The group singing that Karaoke inspires breaks the ice socially as you find yourself thrust into a chorus of robust amateurs belting out familiar songs for the sheer love of it.

In Britain, there are thousands of backing tracks recorded of such Anglo-American popular hits as I Left My Heart In San Francisco, When The Saints Go Marching In, Raindrops Keep Falling On My Head, from Daydream Believer to I Will Survive. The Japanese, of course, have their own favoured songs along with international hits. There are clubs there called Sing Sing, Camel, New Heart and several named Madonna.



Every would-be Madonna and Elvis in London can sing along with a Karaoke machine providing fully orchestrated backups for popular songs.

In Moscow a Japanese restaurant lures homesick Tokyo executives with Karaoke's familiar tunes. But the virus is spreading to the Russian partners they invite. So, Japanese technicians are working now on producing Karaoke software for the Volga Boatman, Kalinka and such chestnuts of the Russian repertoire.

Japanese hi-tech and American hi-marketing have joined forces in the latest Karaoke settings: supermarkets. Now you can take a break and sing a song in between buying oat bran and polyunsaturates. The portable Karaoke machines are said to be effective in keeping drivers cool in cars caught in traffic jams in Tokyo, Seoul and Manhattan.

The British queen of Karaoke is Joanne Arbiter, who began importing and distributing hardware in Manchester and is the leader of the field here. Ms. Arbiter admits the fad is slightly more popular with men than women. But she stresses that fans range in age from 18 to 60, and she sees many young women joining in. Mr. Benson likes to emphasise the improvisatory fun. "We had a teaching session up north that brought in one former radio disc-jockey, and even two fortyish prison warders. One of the warders chose to sing Jailhouse Rock, which had us all laughing aloud."

Fringe may upstage mainstream arts festival

By Jill Serjeant

EDINBURGH, Scotland — Purists dismiss it as a third-rate circus. Others see it as a fleshly monster that is out of control.

The Edinburgh Fringe Festival, a jamboree of alternative comedy, experimental theatre, mime, dance and sheer outrage is bigger than ever this year and threatening to upstage its more respectable partner, the Edinburgh International Festival.

With 540 companies from 23 nations performing more than 1,000 shows on the fringe alone, visitors to the world's biggest arts festival are faced with an embarrassment of choice.

"I defy anyone not to find something that is either interesting, pleasing or new," said Fringe administrator Mhairi Mackenzie-Robinson.

On the fringe you can breakfast on Shakespeare, lunch with Larry the Ant, dine on Dracula and still have time to catch the world premiere of a new musical or heckle a stand-up comic in a converted church.

And with the mainstream festival in Edinburgh's plush concert halls and theatres focusing on Tchaikovsky and two minor British playwrights, those in search of adventure may well be tempted instead into a smoky bar room Berlin's new cabaret company making its first trip abroad.

More than 500,000 tickets were sold for fringe shows last year compared with about 150,000 for events at the main festival.

Hardly surprising then that former international festival Director Frank Dunlop lashed out angrily at the "third-rate circus" competing on his doorstep.

British pop artist explains his art

By Graham Heathcote
The Associated Press

LONDON — Art doesn't always speak for itself. The living artist can.

Richard Hamilton, a founder of pop art, did just that to the surprise and delight of visitors on press day in June at a big exhibition of his work in London's Tate Gallery.

"It was our idea," said Tate spokeswoman Alison Wright.

"We asked him if he'd like to go round the exhibits and talk about them and he said he would be pleased to do it. It was the first time an artist has ever done that at the Tate, apart from David Hockney doing a question-and-answer session at his exhibition in 1988," she said.

"I was criticised for being sexist when I did this," said Hamilton, standing beside pictures of the late 1950s and early '60s inspired by sex symbols in American advertising.

But I didn't want them to be seen as satirical. One critic said I was lending up America but that wasn't the case. This one was really an exploration of the pin-up, like *The Odalisque*," he said, referring to the famous picture of a harem woman by Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres.

"I painted a beautiful, naked woman, not a glorification of the Playboy 'idea,'" Hamilton said.

But he saw no contradiction in including the word "sexy" in his definition of "pop art" when he was asked

in 1957 to explain it. He wrote that pop art was: "Popular (designed for a mass audience). Transient (short-term solution). Explicable (easily forgotten). Low cost. Mass produced. Young (aimed at youth). Witty. Sexy. Gimmicky. Glamorous. Big business."

Those squash taste like shrimp!

By Clare Pedrick

ROME — In Britain, scientists have started a programme to breed pigs whose organs have been genetically modified to make them suitable for human transplant operations. In the U.S., a company has developed a tomato which, once picked, will never go bad, thanks to the removal of a gene which controls the ripening process. In Germany, biologists say they have genetically engineered a strain of cotton that is resistant to herbicide. Genetic engineering, feared by some and favoured by others, is no longer the stuff of science fiction. Research is gathering momentum fast, bringing new applications in the fields of medicine and agriculture. New techniques mean that genes from plants can be transplanted into animals and humans. The reverse is also true. In the future, say scientists, we may see squash that

tastes like scampi (shrimp), apples that are genetically laced with insulin for diabetics and water melons that are square instead of round, so they can more easily be stacked on the supermarket shelves.

"Some of these may seem very fanciful, but we are not so far away," said Victor Villalobos, plant biotechnology officer at the U.N.'s Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) in Rome. "It's a very key time now. Once a few companies start producing genetically modified products on a commercial scale, many more will follow." At the FAO, scientists are examining the revolutionary effects that genetic engineering could have on agriculture in general, and food production in particular. "Our job is to make the developing world aware of the mechanisms and benefits of bio-technology and also protect them against the possible negative effects,"

said Mexican-born Villalobos. "By and large, we feel the positive effects are greater than the negative effects."

Genetic engineering — the transfer of genes from one organism to another — is based on the knowledge that every animal and plant has a genetic blue-print or DNA, which can be altered to change one or more characteristics. A gene introduced from a foreign organism will impart a particularly desirable characteristic in its host. "All living things have a genetic background which codifies their characteristics, internally and externally," said Villalobos. "Scientists were looking for a mechanism to take a certain piece of this information from one individual and insert it in a recipient cell, where it would express those characteristics."

For some years now, the scientific world has had the capability to make genetic modifications to organisms within the same species. But the real challenge lay in breaking down natural barriers erected by nature to prevent cross-breeding between different groups. Now, that hurdle too has been crossed. "Scientists have come up with ways of manipulating genes and overcoming these natural barriers that evolution has put in the way," said Dr. Villalobos. "Now, it is possible to transfer a gene that comes from a plant, an animal or even a human. Every week we are seeing new changes and modifications."

The latest technique involves enzymes, whose eating action cuts through a molecule like a sharp knife. "They open up the molecule like a zipper," said Dr. Villalobos. "Each tooth of that zipper has a code which the enzyme can recognise." The enzyme cuts out the gene that has been targeted and scientists transfer it to rapidly reproducing bacteria. "These bacteria act as the host cell for

the new DNA you want to insert," said Dr. Villalobos. "The bacteria attacks the cell wall of the organism into which you want to introduce the new gene, transferring the new DNA to it at the same time. Then you kill the bacteria with antibiotics, so you are left with just the gene you wanted."

In the medical world, biogenetic research is being used to pioneer the early diagnosis and possible treatment of serious diseases. Doctors can now tell if people will have a tendency to develop cancer, Alzheimer's and heart disease by running a relatively simple genetic test. The hope is that by modifying the genes responsible for the disorders, doctors will be able to prevent people from developing these diseases, or cure them if they already have. "I think we will eventually overcome many diseases by these techniques," said Dr. Villalobos.

Ethical Issues

Genetic engineering raises a myriad of ethical issues. Its detractors point to the ease with which it can be abused. American civil rights activists recently highlighted a scheme proposed by some U.S. companies to introduce genetic screening for job candidates.

Potential employees would have been exposed to genetic tests for a number of serious diseases and then gauged according to the risk they presented in terms of health insurance and lost working hours.

The British project to breed genetically modified pigs to provide organs for transplant operations has also raised protests in some quarters. The idea is to insert human genes into fertilised sows' eggs to breed a new strain of pig which will be kept on the world's first donor farms, sited close to transplant hospitals. These animals will have organs

tailor-made for transplant operations — bigger lungs and hearts which are closer in size to their human counterparts and which, hopefully will be "friendly" to the human immune system. Doctors say the first pigs could be born before the end of the year.

In the food production business, a decision taken by the U.S. government's Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has had far-reaching implications. In a May ruling, the FDA declared that food products altered by genetic engineering did not necessarily pose a safety threat to the customer and could be marketed with limited labeling advice to shoppers. Labels for genetically engineered food products on sale in the U.S. will be little different from those warning that a sweetener or preservative has been added. In some cases, no pre-market approval will be needed.

The decision, roundly attacked by consumer groups, suggests that the scientific community no longer believes bio-technology is as risky as was thought 10 years ago, when research was still in the early stages. Those in favour say the technique will help improve food quality for all, making foodstuffs more widely available, irrespective of problems of distribution and climate.

In Florida, American scientists are experimenting with the gene of a cactus, transplanted into a wheat seed. The resultant strain of wheat should be capable of surviving in the desert wastes of Arizona and Texas, they say. If that proves to be the case, there is no reason why the same strain could not be cultivated in drought-ridden areas of the developing world. Bio-technicians are also working on isolating the gene that makes the flounder fish resistant to the sub-zero temperatures of Arctic waters. Their aim is to incorporate the characteristic into plants to give them similar abilities to withstand the extreme cold. So far, experiments have concentrated on producing a strain of potato whose flesh does not become discoloured and soft when exposed to freezing temperatures.

In California, a biotech company called Calgene has developed a tomato in which



Altered to become resistant to fungus these cocoa plants will produce beans with the same

taste and nutritional value as traditional cocoa bushes. However, a taste of strawberry or banana could be added by scientists.

the gene responsible for making the fruit go soft has been blocked. The result is a tomato which can be ripened on the plant, but which stops maturing the moment it is picked. Consumer groups complain the tomato has been tampered with, and could therefore represent a threat to human health. The company retorts that its product is far more natural than most commercially grown tomatoes. Often, these are picked green, kept in cold storage and then sprayed with ethylene gas to make them go reddish shortly before they are due to be sent to the stores. The result, in the words of a Calgene official, is a fruit that has as much flavour as a tennis ball.

The new genetically bred tomato is likely to go on sale in American supermarkets early next year. Other fruits and vegetables, similarly modified, will soon follow. Meanwhile, there are other projects under way. In Princeton, New Jersey, scientists claim that by introducing genes from a horse a pig they can produce a meat which is lower in fat and cholesterol.

A major U.S. seed manufacturer is trying to isolate the highly nutritious amino-acid methionine, normally found in Brazil nuts, and insert it into the soybean genome to make an enriched feed for chickens.

Other experiments in the pipeline include a lettuce crossed with a peanut gene, to stop it from going limp, a carrot with the gene or apri-

cot, to give it a sweeter flavour, and a melon containing a banana gene, to make it easier to peel.

Consumer groups say more studies are needed before genetically engineered food products are fed to the general public. They also say the public should be made aware of just how the food has been modified — whether the apple or banana they are about to bite into contains a gene from an animal, fish or even a human. Environmentalists complain that planting tomatoes in the North Pole and wheat in Arizona will disrupt the eco-system. Religious leaders warn that tampering with human genes to improve health prospects could open a dangerous Pandora's box, leading to genetic manipulation for less altruistic reasons.

At the FAO Dr. Villalobos confesses to sharing some of these misgivings. "I am not in favour of transplanting human genes to plants and vice versa," he said. But for the purposes of improving food production, genetic engineering has a powerful contribution to make, he adds. "My view is that there is not much risk because the genes are already present in nature. There is nothing completely new. It is also a very little amount in comparison with the whole DNA in the recipient cell. In a sense, using genetic engineering is like taking a short cut. With conventional methods you would have to breed out an undesirable quality. With genetic engineering, it is instant."

Like many scientists, Dr. Villalobos points to the benefits to be drawn — especially by poorer countries — from techniques which will help develop crops immune to frost, drought and parasites and which do not spoil once they are picked. "In the developing countries, genetic engineering will have many applications, especially in preventing post-harvest deterioration," he said. "If you have one gene which blocks the step in the process, then you can extend the plant's storability. That could be useful for all crops that deteriorate — roots and tubers, potatoes and cassava — and in the developing world, where there are few low-temperature facilities and bad transportation links, this could be important."

"Genetic engineering will become more and more common, especially where it can control certain diseases, mainly viruses but also fungi," he added. "I could be helpful in conferring resistance to salinity for rice growing in Asia. There, the large populations and water evaporation have increased the salinity in the soil, and that affects the yield with each generation that passes. A German company has said it will have the first strain of cotton resistant to herbicide ready by next year. And in China, they have already planted 500 hectares of tobacco that is resistant to virus. In that sense, the commercialisation of genetically engineered plants has already begun" — World News Link.



These pine seedlings were grown from a single cell that has been modified genetically to make it resistant to disease.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

By Olive Dunn

ACROSS
1 Diplomat's forte
2 Wives
3 Historic island
4 Branded tape
5 Month before
6 Naps
7 Sordid
8 Author of the
9 Musical sound
10 Slink a smok
11 Sharp
12 Choice violin
13 Autocratic ruler
14 In (intrude)
15 Conquered
16 Scurry
17 Uttered
18 Short summary

DOWN
1 Worried cloth
2 City in Turkey
3 Culvert
4 Streamer
5 Servant's org.
6 Seed coat
7 Sordid
8 Corvidae
9 Actor Ron
10 For fear that
11 Spiny sea slug
12 It's — lullaby
13 Thwack
14 Personification of fate
15 Malayan dagger
16 Fond du
17 Hurricane
18 Relative of the
19 and laura
20 Precious thing

Diagramless 19 x 19, By Frances Burton
1 Vacation spot
2 Useless plant
3 Librarian
4 Sordid
5 Wrought-iron
6 Devil
7 Dignified act
8 Rascal's garment
9 Highway hazard
10 Glimpse
11 Simply
12 — and pieces

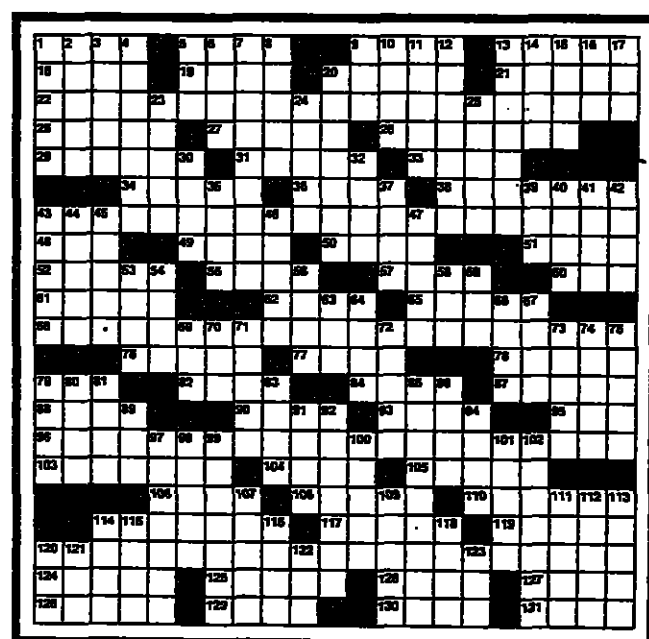
DOWN
1 Apples
2 Hammer part
3 Do sums
4 Small birds
5 Wreaths
6 Begins
7 Rascal
8 Sectors
9 Tricking rig
10 Pile to
11 Mention
12 Society girl, for short

ACROSS
33 Swedish
34 A taste of
35 Sordid
36 Naps
37 Sordid
38 Author of the
39 Musical sound
40 Slink a smok
41 Sharp
42 Choice violin
43 Autocratic ruler
44 In (intrude)
45 Conquered
46 Scurry
47 Uttered
48 Short summary

DOWN
25 Supernatural
26 City in Turkey
27 Culvert
28 Streamer
29 Servant's org.
30 Seed coat
31 Sordid
32 Corvidae
33 Actor Ron
34 For fear that
35 Spiny sea slug
36 It's — lullaby
37 Thwack
38 Personification of fate
39 Malayan dagger
40 Fond du
41 Hurricane
42 Relative of the
43 and laura
44 Precious thing

Diagramless 19 x 19, By Frances Burton
22 Shopping center
23 Flying pin
24 Crackers
25 Kennedy or
26 Sordid
27 Wrought-iron
28 Devil
29 Dignified act
30 Rascal's garment
31 Highway hazard
32 Glimpse
33 Simply
34 — and pieces

DOWN
14 "A — Nanted
15 — on the
16 Smallest bill
17 Bonin's land
18 Without
19 Pile
20 Building
21 Society girl, for short
22 Shopping center
23 Flying pin
24 Crackers
25 Kennedy or
26 Sordid
27 Wrought-iron
28 Devil
29 Dignified act
30 Rascal's garment
31 Highway hazard
32 Glimpse
33 Simply
34 — and pieces

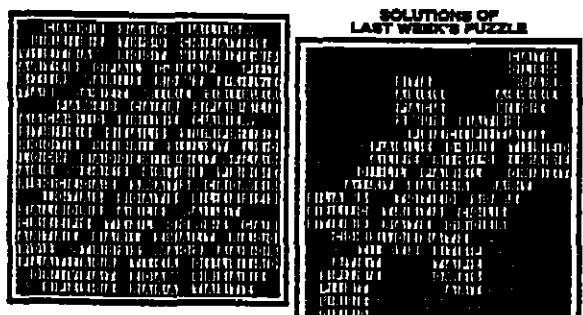


Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Was used car dealer sold less than to new condominium owner.
2. Brain steppack soon learned that one can't fall asleep on this kind of
3. Nothing serves to improve a person's hearing more than praise.
4. One's most illuminating thoughts can occur during sleepless nighttime periods.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. KILLIO TVOTV COB KILAHILMTV AHKEVVB
GCOB NO GCOB. —By Gordon Miller
2. BQEPKZE RCW STXYTZK PZ MUD DITCH
YRWK MEYBYCHYD LBWVYZ BC QUZ
PBWVYZ IL R STWVYZ. —By Ed Hinkle
3. PUFT QT SUFT UR LUFT ETAUTHERL HIR
FYZRPNs ATWSL UD DIR SQZRL QNH
PMQC LQMCN PWTLQ. —By Rita Salvato
4. ACIWEKNEY LIOFDNY FENBOTH WIGILE
WILD XBDTOA FRENZY XNDUUE
FRIEUTY. —By Armitage Shanks



Research breakthrough offers hope for Parkinson's treatment

By Lynn Elber

The Associated Press
LOS ANGELES — Scientists say they have taken a crucial step toward conquering Parkinson's disease by identifying a protein that is vital to healthy brain cell operation.

"We are going to start making major progress" in the effort to understand, and treat Parkinson's, said Dr. Robert Edwards of the UCLA School of Medicine and the study's senior author. "This could be a major key in the disease."

Parkinson's, a progressive neurological disorder that causes reduced mobility, tremors and muscular rigidity, is associated with aging but can strike young adults. There is no cure. If the cause can be identified, Dr. Edwards said, it is possible "we could prevent it, and even reverse damage in

people who have it."

The research also clarified an aspect of how brain cells communicate, closing a gap in scientific knowledge, Dr. Edwards said.

Dr. Mark Hallett, director of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Strokes, in Bethesda, Maryland, said the research was valuable, but it was too early to say how much could be accomplished with it.

"The more that we know about the way these cells function, the better off we are," he said.

But, based on initial reports on the research, "whether it will be relevant to Parkinson's disease is not at all clear," he added. According to the study, the protein — Chromaffin Granule Amine Transporter, or CGAT — helps to rid nerve cells of toxic substances that may accumulate and lead to

the type of brain cell death seen in Parkinson's patients.

It could be that a lifetime of inadequate "detoxification" eventually leads to the disease, said Dr. Edwards, an assistant professor of neurology at UCLA's Medical School.

The scientists worked with previous findings involving a toxin, MPTP, which causes symptoms similar to Parkinson's.

They took genes from adrenal glands that had proven resistant to MPTP, cloned them and transferred them to MPTP sensitive cells, and eventually identified the gene that programmes for production of CGAT.

The researchers focused on brain cell communication, which occurs at junctions between cells called synapses and involves chemicals called neurotransmitters released from structures called synap-

tic vesicles.

The toxin responsible for Parkinson's may be dopamine, a normal brain chemical that might go awry in the disease's victims, this and other studies suggest.

Dopamine, a neurotransmitter that helps brain cells communicate, may be destroying the cells that produce it, Dr. Edwards speculated.

For decades, one treatment for the disease has been L-Dopa, a precursor to Dopamine. Questions have been raised about whether the substance was both hurting and helping patients, said Dr. Dale Bredesen, assistant professor of neurology at UCLA.

The study also provided insight into the brain's operation by pinpointing how neurotransmitters are pumped into vesicles, providing a missing link of information, Dr. Edwards said.

New breakthrough on spotting Alzheimer's

LONDON (R) — Scientists in the United States have discovered a method of accurately identifying people suffering from the early stages of Alzheimer's disease, a report said.

Researchers at the Indiana University School of Medicine and Salk Institute Biotechnology Industrial Associates in La Jolla, Cali-

fornia, say the discovery will allow doctors to treat younger people who might have the disease without realising they are showing symptoms.

The report published in the respected British medical journal, the *Lancet*, said the researchers had found a chemical link with a protein associated with the illness and a specific gene carrier

after tests on members of a family suffering with hereditary Alzheimer's.

Alzheimer's disease affects five to 10 per cent of people over 65 and leads to progressive and irreversible loss of memory.

"We believe this will be the first biochemical diagnostic available for a substance known to be associated with Alzheimer's," a research

team spokesman said.

"Not only will it assist doctors in making a correct diagnosis of patients, even in the early stages of dementia, but it will also enable clinicians around the world to test Alzheimer's therapeutics on confirmed Alzheimer's disease patients, perhaps offering more certainty of drug effectiveness," he said.

Bush announces 'no-fly zone'

(Continued from page 1)

voys gave U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali an advance briefing last Friday, though Moscow will not be involved in any action to enforce it.

At the United Nations there was some uneasiness about the action which is not specifically covered by Security Council resolutions. Legally, the action is not directly sanctioned by U.N. Security Council resolutions following the end of the Gulf war. The exclusion zone in the north was set up in ceasefire accords reached between General Norman Schwarzkopf and Iraqi generals when the war ended in March 1991.

The relevant Resolution 688, adopted on April 5, 1991, demands Iraq immediately end "repression" against its civilian population. However, this resolution was not adopted under Chapter VII of the U.N. Charter which carries the threat of force.

Fears have been expressed in the region that another safe

haven in the south could effectively partition the country into three chunks — the Kurdish north, a Shiite-controlled south and a central sector held by the minority Sunni Muslim-dominated regime.

Key Arab governments have voiced opposition to any action that would precipitate the breakup of Iraq. They include the Syrians, Egyptians and Saudi Arabians, leading members of the anti-Iraq coalition.

They fear Iraq's dismemberment would heat up regional tensions at a time when new efforts are underway to end the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Saudis, for instance, are alarmed at the emergence of a Shiite Muslim statelet in the south allied to overwhelmingly Shiite Iran at a time when Tehran is rearming heavily.

But Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf states appear to have been persuaded, some of them reluctantly, that the "no-fly" zone will weaken and possibly help eliminate Iraq's current leadership.

Palestinians study Israeli proposals

(Continued from page 1)

housing units in the occupied territories while allowing more than 10,000 already being built to be completed.

"We are going to bring you back to reality and tell you that settlements cannot disappear from the agenda unless they disappear from the ground," Dr. Ashrawi said at a news conference.

"Let's not just get carried away with this deluge of more and more promises... now is the time to be serious, to be careful, to look at the small print, to look at the substance," she said.

One sign of increased Israeli flexibility was the presence in talks earlier on Tuesday of Saeb Erekat, a Palestinian political scientist with whom the Israelis previously refused to meet because he said publicly he had been appointed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Dr. Erekat attended talks between Jordan and Israel as one of two Palestinian observers with the Jordanian team.

The PLO is officially excluded from the peace process. But four PLO officials are in Washington to supervise the Palestinian delegation and coordinate with PLO headquarters in Tunis.

Dr. Ashrawi said the Palestinians were pleased Israel had now accepted that there should be general elections in the occupied territories for a self-rule body.

But she said the Palestinians believed the body should draw its authority to govern from the fact of being elected and should not be regarded as having power delegated to it by Israel.

This issue of the "source of authority" is a central argument between the two sides: Israel believes if it accepts that the self-rule body draws authority from the elections, it is virtually accepting the establishment of a Palestinian state.

"We want to practice our democratic rights, to elect representatives nationwide and to have a Palestinian source of authority. Certainly you cannot have a serious and meaningful transfer of authority if you maintain an Israeli source of authority," Dr. Ashrawi said.

Unlike five previous rounds in the peace talks, the latest session is scheduled to last a full month.

Dr. Ashrawi held out the prospect that the talks could last beyond the one-year deadline set last October at the historic Madrid conference.

Asked whether the Palestinians

would be prepared to stop the clock by the end of October, Dr. Ashrawi said: "We are willing to adjust the timeframe... if we see there is progress and not just symbolic progress."

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said on Tuesday the issue of Jerusalem was central to a peace settlement in the Middle East.

"This round of talks (in Washington) is the most important..." Mr. Arafat was quoted as saying by the Tunisian news agency TAP.

Mr. Arafat, who held talks with Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali at Carthage Palace, near Tunis, said:

"As for us Palestinians, Arabs, Muslims and Christians, this issue (of Jerusalem) is the starting point for any negotiating process."

Four orthodox Jews in traditional long black coats have joined the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks — members of the group Neturei Karta, which believes Zionism defies Jewish law in establishing the state of Israel.

The group's "foreign minister," Rabbi Moshe Hirsch, told Reuters from his room at the Palestinian team's hotel: "We can make audible the message which the Palestinians wish to deliver and to clarify to the world that the Zionist stand is not the Jewish stand."

Mr. Hirsch nearly lost the sight in one eye last year when Jewish zealots attacked him.

Half a dozen young American members of Neturei Karta, wearing black coats and hats and their hair in ringlets, demonstrated outside the hotels where the Palestinians and Israelis are staying.

They handed out leaflets declaring: "The state of Israel has nothing to do with Jews."

King to leave hospital Saturday

(Continued from page 1)

Committee members Mahmoud Abbas and Yasser Abed Rabbo, Sudanese leader Omar Al Bashir, heads of bedouin tribes in Jordan and the Jordanian Nursing and Midwives Association.

The King sent a message of deep thanks and appreciation to the Jordanian family for its concern over his health. Interviewed by Jordan Television (JTV) at the Mayo Clinic by JTV's Muhsen Hamad, the King said:

"I'd first of all like to say that I am very very happy indeed that this has been a chance for me to first of all be surrounded by so much love and care and from everyone — every member of the Jordanian family, within the Arab World as well, and the world as a whole."

"Here we are so warmly received. Of course I had a group with me. Her Majesty Queen Noor has been with me and various members of the Jordanian family have been with me."

"This place is rather unique in the world, the Mayo Clinic. It's the first time I visited, but it has been a privilege also to know the calibre of people in terms of its prominence the world over. We have had many investigations."

"I had the team from the Royal Medical Centre with me, the personal physician and others, and then surgery was decided upon. The problem was confirmed, located, isolated and the surgery was conducted."

"It was until yesterday that we had finally the consensus as to what the situation was and that what has been removed (was) contained in a very small part of it. The area was ominous in terms of had it waited for longer to receive the treatment that was needed but it is felt that the threat as a whole is removed once and for all, and the possibility of malignancy will need to be checked every three months, but there is every confidence that is behind us and that one can lead a normal life as soon as we are able to put it together in terms of recuperating from the surgery that tomorrow will have completed one week."

"I will have to struggle with myself to ensure that I don't push myself too hard. I feel very very well at parts of the day but there are times when it catches up with me and I feel very tired, and there is always the struggle to try to do more and achieve more."

"But whatever I do I will never be able to thank everybody for all that they've given

me in the way of love and care and concern during this ordeal. In any event life goes on and this is a trip that we take and those of us who are fortunate and those who are able to accomplish something... I haven't accomplished all by myself."

"I have accomplished it with all Jordanians regardless of their origins and I hope I will continue to move ahead to make of Jordan a model and a good example to others everywhere."

"I was very happy to receive members of Parliament and the Senate and the government a short while ago and I'm very touched by their visit... to see you here and to thank also our friends in the United States at the highest levels and all levels for giving me all their care and everything was available. People throughout the world — people in the U.S., people in the Arab World, Arab leaders — have all been in touch, have all asked, have all inquired, regardless of past political views or opinions."

"There is a lot of good in this world and I hope indeed we'll see it translated more and more into actions in our lives for a better future for all of us and for all mankind."

10 killed

(Continued from page 1)

tional terminal of the airport, named after a former Algerian president, were shattered from the blast. Taxis and ambulances ferried the wounded to various hospitals in Algiers.

Children were among the dead and wounded, witnesses said, but no other details or their identities were available.

Lebanon

(Continued from page 1)

The government's decision to resume the elections despite the Christian opposition threatens to unbalance the 1989 Taif peace pact which ended Lebanon's 1975-90 civil war.

Mr. Bouez, hoping Christians would go back on their decision to boycott the election, met representatives of the opposition late on Tuesday.

But Mr. Bouez, President Hrawi's son-in-law, failed to persuade the opposition to accept a compromise proposal delaying the second round of voting.

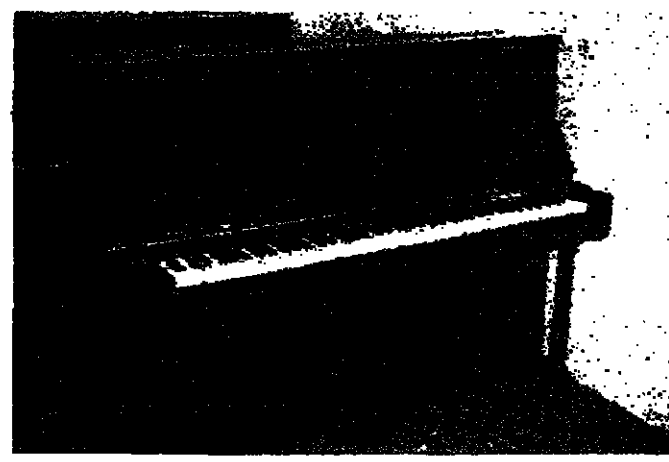
Farouq Abi Lama'a, an opposition leader and its spokesman, said the Bouez proposal did not "deal with the essentials needed for honest, free and democratic elections."

Political sources quoted Prime Minister Solh as saying that "up to now the cabinet favours continuing the polls as scheduled."

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Arafat

(Continued from page 1)

ernment's "policy of oppression, repression and terrorism."

He accused Israel of denying the fundamental principles of the peace process, including the principle of "land for peace" as set down by U.S. President George Bush in March 1991.

Palestinians wanted total self-determination, he said, "not administrative elections as it (Israel) has proposed, under the guns and cannons of its tanks."

"Let the whole world realise that there can be no peace or stability on the corpses of the Palestinian people," said Mr. Arafat, who received a standing ovation from the audience.

Although the PLO is excluded from the talks, it has adopted a higher profile during the current round. Mr. Arafat's appearance in Geneva, at a normally low-key annual conference of non-governmental bodies, appeared to be part of that approach.

At a news conference afterwards, he appeared to adopt a more conciliatory line, saying he had not threatened to withdraw support for the peace process.

"I did not threaten to put an end to the negotiations. If the Israelis continue their iron-fisted policy, they will threaten the peace process," he said.

Sabatini advances in San Diego

SAN DIEGO (R) — Top seed Gabriela Sabatini crushed American Kimberly Po 6-0 6-0 in 45 minutes to sail into the third round of the \$225,000 Mazda Tennis Classic Tuesday.

The fourth-ranked Argentine, who received a first round bye in the 28-player hardcourt tune-up for the U.S. Open, could have been off court even quicker but was content to stay on the baseline and wait for her opponent to make mistakes.

Fifth seed Jana Novotna of Czechoslovakia used an aggressive serve and volley game to frustrate Sweden's Catarina Lindqvist 6-3 6-3 and Kimiko Date of Japan eliminated former top-10 player Pam Shriver by the identical score in first round play.

Judith Wiesner of Austria won the right to face second-seeded defending champion Jennifer Capriati by ousting Julie Halard of France 3-6 7-6 6-3 in a two-hour, 17-minute first round encounter.

Britain's Monique Javier defeated American Kathy Rinaldi 6-4 6-3 in a first round match that was scheduled to be an all-British affair until Jo Durie was forced to withdraw with a stiff neck, which she said was the result of sleeping in an awkward position.

Sabatini was surprisingly defensive against Po, making for unnecessarily long and tedious baseline rallies.

Po, ranked 67th in the world, managed to create some tension during one game in the second set when she reached her only game point of the match. Po squandered the opportunity by missing a forehand long.

"I think I played well tonight. I did not come to the net because she was making so many errors from the baseline," said Sabatini, the 1990 U.S. Open champion.

"My game was consistent and that is good for the first (match)," she said.



Gabriela Sabatini

Stich collapses after 1st set win in New York

SCHENECTADY, New York (R) — Former Wimbledon champion Michael Stich of Germany collapsed after completing a first round win in high heat and humidity at the \$255,000 OTB International Tennis Open.

The top seed and defending champion needed a second set tiebreak to eliminate American qualifier Martin Blackman 6-3 7-6 then slumped to the ground after his post-match interview.

"Michael was dehydrated," tournament director Nitty Singh said. "They were thinking of giving him an I.V. but he appears to be okay now."

After more than 30 minutes of sitting in the grass near the interview area Stich was driven off in a golf cart and tournament organizers said he was expected to play his second round match Wednesday.

Fifth-seeded Spaniard Emilio Sanchez admitted to having trouble getting up for his first round match, but survived for a 6-3 7-5 win over Markus Naewie of Germany.

"To find motivation after a loss in a lifetime experience like the Olympics is difficult," admitted Sanchez, who reached the quarterfinals in singles and doubles in his hometown of Barcelona.

Third-seeded Olympic silver medalist Wayne Ferreira of South Africa and eighth-seeded Russian Andrei Chesnokov both safely reached the second round with straight-set wins.

But Stich said he had a surprisingly tough time with the unknown blackman.

"He was very tough," said Stich, who served just four aces in the match. "I didn't know anything about him. He moved well and served well."

"Considering this was my first match on hard courts in a while, I'm satisfied," he said.

The top women's seeds advanced to the second round, though second seed Radka Zrubakova of Czechoslovakia was stretched before stopping Barbara Paulus of Austria 5-7 6-3 6-2.

Top seed Helena Sukova had an easier time as she downed Dominique Monami of Belgium 6-3 6-4, while fourth-seeded defending champion Brenda Schultz of the Netherlands beat Pascale Paradis-Mangon of France 4-6 6-4 6-3.

Two seeded Australians failed to survive the first round. Meike Babel of Germany upset seventh-seeded Nicole Provis 7-6 3-6 6-2 and eighth-seeded Rachel McQuillan fell to Shi-Ting Wang of Taiwan 6-1 1-6 6-1.

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Scottish F.A. refuse to recognise Super League

GLASGOW (R) — Scotland's soccer authorities are refusing to recognise the newly-formed Scottish Super League, a breakaway group of clubs planning to start their competition in two years.

A statement from Scottish Football Association (SFA) chief executive Jim Farry Tuesday describes the Super League — initiated by Glasgow Rangers and Hearts — as an "unauthorised body."

Rangers, Celtic, Aberdeen, Hearts and Dundee United were the original Scottish premier division teams who unveiled plans for a Super League in June. Since then they have been joined by St. Johnstone, Hibernian and Motherwell.

The SFA are emphatic that the Super League is in breach of the association's Article 73, which governs the formation of any set-up in Scotland.

That states: "Associations, leagues or other combinations of clubs, players or officials shall not be formed without the consent of this association (the SFA) or an affiliated national association."

Without SFA sanction, the Super League's chances of starting their competition are diminished.

The SFA, responding to correspondence from Hearts Chairman Wallace Mercer on behalf of "a group of member clubs" said in their statement: "The executive committee has replied that the combination of clubs referred to as the Super League is an unauthorised body."

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SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Inter sell Matthaeus back to Bayern

MILAN, Italy (R) — The transfer of Germany's World Cup winning captain Lothar Matthaeus to Bayern Munich from Internazionale Milan was confirmed by the Italian club. Inter, who bought Matthaeus from Bayern in 1988, said in a statement the midfielder wanted to return to Germany for "personal reasons." The statement gave no financial details of the transfer which was first announced by Bayern Vice-President Franz Beckenbauer last weekend. The Italian News Agency (ANSA) said Inter would receive \$6.3 million for 31-year-old Matthaeus who has been out of action since tearing a ligament in his right knee in April. Matthaeus was named World Footballer of the year in 1990 after leading Germany to the World Cup title. Bayern, who won the German Bundesliga five times between 1985 and 1990 have struggled in the past two years. They finished in 10th place last season.

Ruelas defeats Diaz in boxing

RESEDA, California (AP) — Gabriel Ruelas won a unanimous 10 round decision over Mexico's Ismael Diaz Tuesday night in a lightweight bout. Ruelas of Sylmar, California, is rated No. 1 by both the World Boxing Council (WBC) and World Boxing Association (WBA) in the junior lightweight division. He moved up to 135 pounds (61 kilos) to fight Diaz, also 135 (61 kilos). All three judges scored the fight 98-90 for Ruelas. He won every round, but was penalized two points for low blows, both of which floored Diaz. Ruelas, 22, improved to 32-1 with 16 knockouts. Diaz fell to 18-6-2 with 17 knockouts. In a co-featured bout, Ruelas' 21-year-old brother Rafael knocked out Mexico's Benny Dominguez in the first round of a scheduled 10-rounder. The younger Ruelas, rated No. 7 in the lightweight division by the WBC, knocked out Dominguez with a right hand. Referee Fritz Werner stopped the fight without counting at 2:07 of the first round.

Zelezny keeps Raty in his place

LAHTI, Finland (R) — Czechoslovak Olympic champion Jan Zelezny confirmed his position as the world's leading javelin thrower when he again beat silver medalist Seppo Raty of Finland at an athletics meeting Tuesday. Zelezny had three throws beyond 86 metres, all of them ahead of Raty's best attempt of 85.10. The Czechoslovak's best throw measured 88.34, 1.32 metres short of his gold medal distance at the Barcelona Olympics. Two other Finns, Harri Hakkarainen and Kimmo Kinnunen, filled the next two places with throws of 82.70 and 82.06 metres respectively. Olympic women's long jump champion Heike Drechsler narrowly beat Barcelona silver medalist Inessa Kravets of the Ukraine but the German's leap of 6.90 metres was well short of the 7.14 she achieved at the games. Kravets jumped 6.87 while Jelena Persina from Kazakhstan was third with 6.59.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY AUGUST 28, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Coming to a better understanding with close associates will be possible in the A.M. today and you will find others somewhat cooperative as long as you are sure to use the right tactics.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You certainly have some personal advancement to make this morning so get busy and in the afternoon work on a practical angle but tonight avoid extravagance.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Seek some dynamic personal confidence and go along with the suggestions made for your advancement and be wrapped up in making it work.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You see the right manner to gain the wishes that mean the most to you so don't postpone but get into the private aspects of getting them done now.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get out early in the day to confer with one able to grant you some public favour you desire then get a good friend to go along with such a plan.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Be openminded to some changes and look into them wholeheartedly after which you will see just how you can apply them to your usual activities.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Seek better ways to attend to practical matters and then you will be able to find a new down to earth system by which to get it working right.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) It is certainly advisable that you get the good will of an outside associate before you get into some project that concerns intimately the two of you.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) This about what you can do to improve the value of your daily output then you will be able to get the support of an outside of ability.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Now you would be wise to consider a change in pace in your recreations and if you do so all phases of your existence take an upturn.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Duties at your home require a fresh new approach at them after which you will have freedom of mind and time to engage in desired outside pleasures.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You find all kinds of information you desire that will give more substance to your planning and then you can find ways to increase family accord.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Get the latest information on how to increase the value of your property or other assets and then make arrangements to put into effect to enhance their value.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH

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KEEP COOL—AND IN CONTROL

North-South vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♠ 4 3
♥ 5 4 3 2
♦ A 4 2
♣ K 7 2

WEST
♠ K 10 9 4 3 2
♥ A Q J 7 5
♦ 9
♣ K 3

SOUTH
♠ A Q J 10 5
♥ 8
♦ A K 10 8 7
♣ J 9

The bidding:
East South West North
1 ♣ 1 ♠ 4 ♣ 4 ♠
2 ♠ 5 ♠ 4 ♠ 4 ♠
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Nine of ♠
It was already into the second week of the new year, and Trump Coup Tommy found himself in unaccustomed circumstances—he had a credit balance at the club! Our regular readers are aware of Tommy's peculiar talent. Normally a player of modest ability, he shone on those hands where trumps broke awkwardly. It was hands like the above that were responsible for Tommy's stable cash position.

East took advantage of the vulnerability to make a shapely opening bid. Although he had a bid available to show a two-suiter, that

might have meant that partner would become declarer, so Tommy opted instead for a one-spade overcall. Most players would have allowed for the possibility that partner was supporting spades under pressure and taken advantage of the opportunity presented by East's five clubs to show a second suit, but not Tommy. West's double can only be attributed to the fact that the defender forgot for the moment that Tommy was going to declare the hand.

Unfortunately, for the defense, West elected to try for an early ruff by leading the singleton diamond. It might seem natural to play ace of trumps followed by the queen, but Tommy saw the trap. West would allow the queen of spades to hold, take the next round of spades and then exit with the king of clubs.

With no way back to hand to draw the last trump, Tommy would have to concede a heart, a club and a second trump for down two.

Tommy's solution was most elegant: He led the queen of trumps, sleeping trumps saw a line of communication. West ducked, and Tommy continued with the jack. When West ducked again, Tommy cashed the ace of trumps and started running diamonds. One heart and one trump were all the defenders could get, since declarer was able to discard his losing club on the long diamond.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY AUGUST 27, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Doing whatever you can to improve the situation at home works out well as long as you are diplomatic about it and don't get bogged down in long-winded discussions over fine points and shades.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You would be wise to carefully analyse whatever business arrangements you have with other persons and tonight you can see the pathway clearly to do them.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Don't try to ask another person who is fixed in ideas to do your bidding during the day but tonight you find that you can arrive at a satisfactory understanding.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) The work hours drag along today but keep alert to whatever is happening that is unusual and tonight you are able to please members of your household.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Take some time out to perfect your appearance and arrange some anticipated pleasures while in the evening you can have a wonderful time.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You may be a bit fed up with some condition at your residence but keep mum about it and tonight you find ways to do what delights your own clan.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You like to be aware of all factors connected with anything of interest to you and today you can get these details while tonight amusements delight you.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) The practical and mundane side of your affairs should occupy your time and attention today while tonight have a wonderful time quietly with your own family.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You feel frustrated because you are unable to get personal goals moving as you wish but persist and tonight going to new sites with a friend will be fun.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Concentrate upon your highly intimate chores and activities as much as possible today and tonight get into practical matters with an expert.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Don't ask any favours of friends during the daytime and tonight you find you have an interesting new inspiration that solves problems for yourself.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Do your vocational activities with utmost conscientiousness during the day and you sidestep trouble while tonight private pleasures bring much joy.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is not the day to throw over any present interests for some new condition which looks more glamorous than it actually is but tonight join friends at congenial amusements.

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THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

Financial Markets

Currency	NEW YORK 25/8/92	TOKYO 26/8/92
Sterling Pound	1.9880	1.9893
Deutsche Mark	1.4023	1.4059
Swiss Franc	1.2485	1.2518
French Franc	4.7445	4.7975**
Japanese Yen	124.55	124.95**
European Currency Unit	1.4425	1.4375**

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTH	6 MTH	12 MTH
U.S. Dollar	3.38	5.43	3.50	3.75
Sterling Pound	10.43	10.68	10.75	10.75
Deutsche Mark	9.68	9.81	9.81	9.81
Swiss Franc	7.75	7.81	7.81	7.81
French Franc	10.25	10.43	10.50	10.50
Japanese Yen	3.87	3.68	3.50	3.37
European Currency Unit	11.06	11.06	11.06	11.06

Currency	U.S. Dollar	U.S. Dollar	U.S. Dollar	U.S. Dollar
Gold	339.60	6.45	Silver	3.65
				0.80

Currency	U.S. Dollar	U.S. Dollar	U.S. Dollar	U.S. Dollar
U.S. Dollar	0.663	0.663	0.663	0.663
Sterling Pound	1.3149	1.3215	1.3215	1.3215
Deutsche Mark	0.4789	0.4793	0.4793	0.4793
Swiss Franc	0.5287	0.5313	0.5313	0.5313
French Franc	0.1381	0.1381	0.1381	0.1381
Japanese Yen	0.5302	0.5329	0.5329	0.5329
Dutch Guilder	0.4179	0.4200	0.4200	0.4200
Swedish Krona	0.1288	0.1294	0.1294	0.1294
Italian Lira	0.0617	0.0620	0.0620	0.0620
Belgian Franc	0.02290	0.02301	0.02301	0.02301

Currency	U.S. Dollar	U.S. Dollar	U.S. Dollar	U.S. Dollar
U.S. Dollar	1.7300	1.7400	1.7400	1.7400
Sterling Pound	0.0260	0.0290	0.0290	0.0290
Swiss Franc	0.1762	0.1780	0.1780	0.1780
Kuwait Dinar	2.2200	2.3100	2.3100	2.3100
Qatar Riyal	0.1796	0.1810	0.1810	0.1810
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2100	0.2100	0.2100
Uganda Shilling	1.6960	1.7100	1.7100	1.7100
UAE Dirham	0.1796	0.1810	0.1810	0.1810
Greek Drachma	0.3740	0.3850	0.3850	0.3850
Cypriot Pound	1.6100	1.6360	1.6360	1.6360

Index	24/8/92	25/8/92	26/8/92
All-Share	141.11	141.35	141.35
Banking Sector	105.21	105.29	105.29
Insurance Sector	147.83	147.94	147.94
Industry Sector	190.78	191.24	191.24
Services Sector	182.53	183.07	183.07

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Australia vows to keep cutting tariffs

CANBERRA (R) — Australia's Industry Minister John Button has rejected union pressure to curb imports of textiles, clothing and footwear, particularly from Asia, to prevent a rise in unemployment.

"If you cut Australian wages in half we would still not be competitive with Asia," Mr. Button told reporters. He called for local industries to upgrade technology to meet the overseas challenge.

Mr. Button said the government would add 30 million dollars Australian (\$22 million) to the 160 million (\$120 million) it has allocated in recent years.

But he said the Labour government would continue cutting tariffs on imported clothing, textiles and footwear.

Unions, particularly in Victoria, the heart of Australia's manufacturing sector, say previous tariff cuts helped raise national unemployment to 11.1 per cent in June.

Joan Kirner, Victoria's Labour premier who is due to call a state election in the next few months, has also attacked the federal government for refusing to delay tariff cuts.

Mr. Button was unmoved, saying: "Protection through tariffs and quotas will not save companies which refuse to recognise the world has changed."

He said the government would continue its plan which by the year 2000 would cut tariffs on clothing to 25 per cent, and on footwear and materials such as cotton sheets to 15 per cent.

Oil company drills near Damascus

DAMASCUS (R) — A U.S.-owned company is drilling an exploration well near Damascus after the discovery of encouraging signs of oil near the Syrian capital, industry sources said Tuesday.

They said Damascus Petroleum Limited (DPL), 75 per cent owned by Occidental Petroleum Corp., began drilling in the Al Nabek block some 90 kilometres north-east of Damascus.

If exploration and tests are successful it would be the first time oil has been found in commercial quantities near the capital, the sources said.

Syria has found oil in the far north-east and in eastern areas close to the Iraqi border. Its current production capacity is around 500,000 barrels per day.

"Al Nabek block is one of the areas of great hope," officials quoted Syrian Oil Minister Nadir Nabulsi as saying while inspecting the Nabek-1 exploration well Monday.

"There are many formations in the area and it is possible that light crude and gas are existing in this area," Mr. Nabulsi said.

An official said seismic data was encouraging and Nabek-1 would be drilled to a depth of 2,900 metres.

Occidental acquired exploration rights in October 1990 to 688,000 hectares (1.7 million acres) in the Al Nabek area which covers Damascus and districts around it.

Exploration in the concession area, the largest taken by a foreign company in Syria, began in December 1990, oil industry sources said.

According to the three-year contract, Occidental and the Syrian National Petroleum Company (SNPC), which has a 25 per cent share in DPL, are committed to drilling four exploration wells.

DPL must spend up to \$15.75 million in operations in the area to study and analyse a survey conducted there earlier by the Syrian Oil Company (SOC).

Syria, a member of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries, inaugurated a new oil well with a production capacity of 20,000 to 25,000 barrels per day near the central city of Dayr-Azzawr this month.

IMF gives Russian economic reforms green light

MOSCOW (R) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) gave Russia's economic reforms a tentative seal of approval on Wednesday, shuffling off reports of a deepening domestic row over the course of monetary policy.

IMF Deputy Director Richard Erb told a news conference he was impressed with the views of government and central bank officials during a visit to the Russian capital.

"I came away feeling that all of the authorities have a great deal of self-confidence in what they are doing... I had a feeling that they certainly are not overwhelmed by the challenges they are facing."

He added: "I think it is clear to the central bank and to the government that there is no return,

that this is a process that is under way and that it must continue."

Russia launched its economic reform programme last January, freeing most prices and promising to sell off state firms.

But many economists say progress is becoming bogged down in demands for extra government cash.

Companies want new loans to enable them to meet unpaid bills, workers call on the government to pay overdue salaries promptly and Russian newspapers are full of reports of an escalating row between the government and the central bank.

But Mr. Erb said he was impressed by the cooperation he had seen between the government reform team, led by Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar, and the central bank, under the control of Viktor Gerashchenko, former head of the Soviet state bank.

"During my last visit in December it was not possible to visit the central bank at all. Now I engaged in a series of discussions with central bank and ministerial representatives together in a very good and positive environment," he said.

Mr. Gerashchenko has been quoted saying he wants to increase the volume of credits to industry to allow companies to repay mounting domestic debts.

Critics say the move is designed to appease the conservative industrial lobby. They fear a big expansion of credit could lead to hyperinflation.

But Mr. Erb said data showing a consumer price rise of 7.5 per cent in July could indicate the risk of hyperinflation was fading.

"Concerns that prices were in the process of exploding were misplaced," he said.

Mr. Erb said the IMF had warned Russia against relying too much on credit and budget policy to drive the economy.

"I did not find disagreement on this," he said. "I think it is the clear aim of the central bank and ministries that pushing credit policy and government spending is not the way to create the conditions for economic growth."

Russia, which joined the IMF earlier this year, has already received the first \$1 billion tranche of an IMF aid package.

Mr. Erb said the possibility of expanding this to a full standby deal would be raised in September or October when the IMF reassessed Russia's economic progress.

But Russian officials remained confident that they could meet tough IMF requirements, he said.

These include bringing monthly inflation rates down to single figures by the end of the year and reining in the government's domestic financing requirement to five per cent of gross domestic product in the second half of the year.

Agreement with the IMF on a standby loan for next year is likely to pave the way for further deferrals in repaying the \$70 billion debt of the former Soviet Union, although Mr. Erb said a full-scale debt rescheduling could be ruled out before this.

He said the Paris Club of creditor nations had already established the basis for new discussions on debt deferrals.

U.S. consumer confidence sinks

NEW YORK (R) — U.S. consumer confidence sank in August to a five-month low, wiping out any chance of an economic pick-up before the November presidential election, according to a key survey released Tuesday.

The Conference Board's survey, based on the views of 5,000 households around the country, showed a drop in confidence for a second month to 58 in August from 61.2 in July. The index works from a 1985 base of 100.

"Since June, the measure of confidence has fallen by some 20 per cent," said Fabian Lindan, executive director of the board's Consumer Research Centre.

"The promise of a business recovery, which was suggested by the markedly improved confidence readings recorded in the spring, has all but withered away," he added.

Based on what consumers say, economic growth is expected to remain just where it is now — at a barely perceptible level — during the presidential race. And the survey, economists said, is a good indicator of overall growth.

"It doesn't look as though we'll pull out of this... in any significant way before the November election," Mr. Lindan said.

Economists said they were increasingly concerned that the consumer was unwilling or unable to make big ticket purchases.

August's confidence level was the lowest since March, when the index was at 56.5.

One of the few bright spots has been in housing, which is along even as the rest of the economy stagnates.

The National Association of Realtors reported Tuesday that sales of previously owned homes rose 3.9 per cent in July, responding to the lowest mortgage rates in years.

July sales were up 6.7 per cent from last year, the realtors' group said. Existing home prices fell 2.4 per cent to a median price of \$102,600 in July and were down 7.8 per cent from \$103,400 a year ago.

While improvement in home sales was good news for those who work in the housing business, economists did not view it as an indicator of a strong widespread economic recovery.

Economist David Jones at Aubrey G. Lantson Co. said the consumer was worried about three things: The weak job outlook, high levels of household debt and the inability of Washington to do anything about the economy.

Dollar under yet more pressure, stocks languish

LONDON (R) — The dollar suffered further weakness against the mark on Wednesday after new official data showed a U.S. economy sputtering rather than recovering.

Major European stock markets languished around their lows for the year after an early Wall Street rally petered out.

Assurances by Germany's Bundesbank that it was not seeking a realignment of the European Community's Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM) helped calm currency markets after the dollar, pound sterling and other currencies were battered by the surging German mark.

The Bank of England earlier acted to halt a slide in the pound by buying the currency, but left its main money market dealing rates unchanged in a signal to commercial banks that it was not seeking a change in their base lending rates.

News of a 3.4 per cent drop in U.S. durable goods orders in July kept the dollar barely above its all-time closing low, set in New York two days ago.

At 1400 GMT the dollar was trading at 1.4046 marks after finishing at 1.4025 on Tuesday in London. It has slipped sporadically below the psychological important 1.40 level during trading this week but its lowest close was 1.4015 in New York on Monday.

"The dollar seems to have found a floor for the moment at about 1.40," one trader said. "People seem happy to buy dollars at that level, making further sharp falls less likely."

In Dusseldorf, Reimut Jochimsen, a member of the German Central Bank's Policy-Making Council, sent shock waves through currency markets by saying he saw the possibility of a realignment of currencies in the ERM.

A Bundesbank spokesman later said the bank was not requesting a realignment, and the dollar firmed briefly in response.

The pound and the Italian lire have slumped seriously close to their floors in the ERM, the point

at which central banks must intervene to preserve the value of a currency in the European Grid.

Bank of England buying on Wednesday morning quickly drove the pound half of a pence higher to around 2.8050 marks. But by 1400 GMT the British currency had slipped back to 2.7920, just over a pence above its ERM floor of 2.7780.

British Chancellor of the Exchequer Norman Lamont said in a brief broadcast statement on Wednesday morning: "I just wanted to make the government's position absolutely clear. There are going to be no devaluations, no leaving the ERM."

The Bank of England subsequently announced that it had left its key money market dealing rate unchanged, but markets were still nervous that a rate increase might yet occur.

Major European stock markets showed early signs of life after falling to 1992 lows on Tuesday, but by late morning the trend was down, with fears of interest rate hikes dominating.

The Financial Times stock exchange index of 100 leading British shares stood at 2,275.9, 5.1 points lower, at 1400 GMT.

In Paris the CAC-40 index was 16.62 points down at 1,651.10. Wall Street opened mixed, and the Dow Jones industrial average was 4.32 points down at 3,227.9 in early trading in New York.

In Frankfurt shares rallied early but then were buffeted by negative inflation data and arbitrage trade. The 30-share Dax index managed to end 4.37 points higher at 1,437.28.

Gold was trading at \$340.35 an ounce in mid-afternoon in Europe after closing at \$341.35 in London Tuesday.

Oil prices were lower. The International Benchmark Brent blend was seven cents down at \$19.68 barrel for October delivery on London's Futures Market.

In Tokyo, the 225-share Nikkei average earlier closed 160.88 points, or 0.98 per cent, higher at 16,541.65, with an estimated 320 million shares traded.

U.S. reschedules Moroccan debts

RABAT (R) — The United States has agreed to reschedule \$101.1 million in debts Morocco incurred up to 1983, the U.S. embassy said Wednesday. An accord signed in Rabat spread repayment of \$32.5 million in principal and interest of official development assistance loans over 20 years with 10 years grace. It also granted 15 years and eight years grace for repayment of another \$68.6 million of consolidated debt and arrears.

While improvement in home sales was good news for those who work in the housing business, economists did not view it as an indicator of a strong widespread economic recovery.

Economist David Jones at Aubrey G. Lantson Co. said the consumer was worried about three things: The weak job outlook, high levels of household debt and the inability of Washington to do anything about the economy.

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Hurricane Andrew tears into Louisiana; 55 hurt

15 people killed in Miami area

NEW ORLEANS (R) — At least 55 people were injured and dozens of houses wrecked by tornadoes as hurricane Andrew swept into Louisiana from the Gulf of Mexico Wednesday, authorities said.

President George Bush declared the state a major disaster area and ordered federal aid to supplement recovery efforts in the area struck by the hurricane, one of the fiercest storms to hit the United States this century.

It had already caused up to \$20 billion in damage when it roared across southern Florida Monday. The storm clipped the southwestern corner of Terrebonne Parish about 60 miles (96 km) southwest of New Orleans just after midnight, causing thunderstorms, heavy rain and high winds.

Andrew, which killed at least 15 people in the Miami area, hovered offshore before edging in slowly, losing some of its strength.

Forecasters said winds were down to 125 mph (200 kph) and they downgraded it to Category 3 on the five-point scale of hurricane intensity.

Earlier Tuesday an estimated 1.6 million residents of southern Louisiana made for high ground to get out of the path of the storm that destroyed at least 50,000

houses in Florida. Andrew took a more westerly course than forecast through the Gulf of Mexico, making evacuation of the 400-mile (650-km) Louisiana coastline more urgent.

Much of Terrebonne Parish's coastal region is uninhabited swampland, minimising early damage in Louisiana and helping to slow the storm that flattened whole sections of south Florida.

Along the marshy, low-lying Louisiana coastline, power lines were reported to be down and waters were rising as hurricane Andrew headed inland. About 5,500 people were without electricity.

"It is kind of spooky in that we have no lights and everybody has pretty much gone, but it is also neat because we are under candlelight and there is no television," said Michael Brokaw in Laplace, Louisiana, about 30 miles (50 km) west of New Orleans.

The hurricane was moving ashore in the Louisiana Cajun country, a low-lying district where people live largely by shrimp fishing and seafood harvesting.

Bands of cloud moving across Louisiana in advance of the hurricane spawned six tornadoes within half an hour before 10 p.m. Tuesday, injuring more than 20

people about two hours before the storm itself was expected to make landfall, local officials said. Sergeant Hamilton Nixon told Reuters tornadoes in Ascension, Livingston and St. James Parishes caused a number of injuries, some believed to be serious.

"We're trying to sort out the information we're getting through local law enforcement and National Guardsmen, but as many ambulances as we can spare are being dispatched," he said.

An amateur radio operator said early Wednesday that a tornado struck Morgan City at midnight and 20 people were taken to hospital. Authorities reported other injuries along the coast.

Officials in two coastal Texas counties, Galveston and Jefferson, urged thousands of people in low-lying areas to leave. Coastal highways were jammed with cars as people fled inland.

The sound of music in the birthplace of jazz was replaced by the wailing of power saws and pounding of hammers as plywood and homeowners cut wood to cover their windows. Most businesses were closed.

New Orleans Airport was closed and airlines cancelled all flights, although by midnight it was clear the city would be spared the worst of the storm.

Armenians: Karabakh war could last years

MOSCOW (R) — Armenia's top military officials said its bloody territorial conflict with Azerbaijan was worse than the Afghan War and could last for years.

"There are enough weapons to fight for many years," presidential defence adviser Vagan Shirkhanyan said in an interview published Wednesday. "The former Soviet Union produced so many of them."

"In fact full-scale war has started," Defence Minister Vazgen Sarkisyan said. "Those who have been to Afghanistan and can compare said the one in Karabakh is far more difficult." At least 13,000 Soviet troops were killed in Moscow's nine-year war in Afghanistan, the most serious conflict the Kremlin's forces were involved in since World War II.

The two men were interviewed by the Moscow daily Nezavisimaya Gazeta about the four-year-old conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, which has more than 2,000 lives.

They reiterated Armenian accusations that most of the weapons left in the Transcaucasian region by the now defunct Soviet Union had gone to Azerbaijan.

"Large amounts of weapons have been handed over (by Russia) to Azerbaijan, while the transfer of weapons to Armenia has been constantly delayed," Mr. Shirkhanyan said. "Thus Russia has gone on stoking up the conflict."

Russia says its policy on the conflict is even-handed and has pressed several peace initiatives, so far without success.

Mr. Shirkhanyan also said many former Soviet army officers had joined Azeri Armed Forces as mercenaries.

Moscow has announced plans to withdraw army personnel to Russia and hand over the remaining weapons to the three Transcaucasian states — Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

Caucasians attack Georgian town

MOSCOW (R) — Caucasian volunteers attacked a town in the breakaway Georgian region of Abkhazia overnight and several people were killed, local officials said Wednesday.

As the region lurched closer to civil war, Russian President Boris Yeltsin said he was taking "decisive measures" to restore calm, Interfax News Agency said.

The mountain fighters, who come from north Caucasian districts nominally part of the Russian Federation, attacked the town of Gagra in northern Abkhazia.

A senior Georgian official in Gagra told local journalists that at least four Georgians and a larger number of the volunteers had been killed.

Another official, quoted by the Georgian government, said as many as 80 of the Chechen and Abchei attackers had died.

The Abkhazian government told Interfax that Georgian forces

had lost dozens of men killed and called for reinforcements. No independent confirmation of the casualties was immediately available.

It was the first serious clash since the gunmen began streaming over the mountains last week to support Abkhazia's bid for independence from Georgia, a former Soviet republic.

Mr. Yeltsin, in a message to the peoples of the northern Caucasus and southern Russia, warned them not to send volunteers to Abkhazia and "be drawn into a dangerous adventure", Interfax said.

ITAR-TASS News Agency said Mr. Yeltsin sent a separate message to Georgian and Abkhazian leaders, saying he would take all necessary measures to stop armed men crossing the border from Russian territory.

He called for an immediate ceasefire and the withdrawal of troops from Abkhazia, a western region bordering the Black Sea.

Ethnic Abkhazians make up less than a quarter of the population and are heavily outnumbered by Georgians.

The commander of Georgian forces in the region, Givi Karkashvili, Tuesday demanded the dissolution of the Abkhazian parliament, the resignation of its leader, Vladislav Ardzinba, and the withdrawal of the volunteer gunmen.

He said in an ultimatum that his men would attack the Abkhazian stronghold of Gudauta unless these demands were met.

However Interfax quoted Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze as saying Commander Karkashvili had demanded Mr. Ardzinba's resignation on his own initiative.

"This step was not authorised by the Georgian leadership," it quoted Mr. Shevardnadze as telling the ruling State Council.

Mr. Yeltsin has agreed to discuss the crisis with Mr. Shevardnadze.

Colombia charges 20 with helping Escobar to escape

BOGOTA (R) — Colombia authorities said Tuesday they had charged 15 guards and five prisoners with helping drug lord Pablo Escobar escape from prison.

It is the first decision taken by the Colombian justice system over the escape of Mr. Escobar, boss of the powerful Medellín cocaine cartel, who fled jail on July 22 with nine of his trusted lieutenants.

The escape caused outrage in Colombia and embarrassed the government abroad.

The prosecutor-general's office said in a statement it had charged five prisoners with kidnapping and being accomplices to the crimes of weapons possession and escape of prisoners.

Officials have said that the five prisoners — all members of the Medellín cartel — held two senior government officials hostage at gunpoint while Mr. Escobar and the others escaped.

The five include Juan Enrique

Urquijo, a cousin of Mr. Escobar, and Valentin Taborda, alleged treasurer of the Medellín cartel.

All 15 traffickers held at the luxury Enrrique Prison near the northwestern city of Medellín surrendered in the middle of last year in exchange for a government offer of leniency and immunity from extradition.

The prosecutor-general's office also ordered the preventive detention of 15 prison guards on charges of kidnapping and aiding an escape.

Six of the guards were also accused of being accomplices in the possession of weapons belonging to the armed forces.

Fourteen other guards held since Mr. Escobar's escape were freed.

Official accounts say that many of the prison guards were allied with Mr. Escobar and defended the drug traffickers when the army stormed the prison on July



Pablo Escobar

22. The deputy justice minister and several senior military officers were sacked after Mr. Escobar's escape.

Colombian security forces have launched a big manhunt for Escobar. The Colombian and U.S. governments have offered rewards totalling \$3.4 million for information leading to his arrest.

Collor shrugs off corruption report

BRASILIA (R) — Brazilian President Fernando Collor De Mello, facing huge demonstrations demanding his resignation, said Tuesday night neither he nor Brazil's democracy were threatened by a report saying he pocketed millions from corruption.

"Everything is going on as normal. There is no reason to be worried," the Brazilian president said in an interview given to a television station in neighbouring Argentina.

Mr. Collor spoke from Brasilia, the Brazilian capital, in a satellite interview. An Argentine

talk show. It was his first public statement since a draft version of the congressional report was read to shocked Brazilians Monday.

Mr. Collor, 43, had spent most of the day closeted in the presidential palace while hundreds of thousands of banner-waving marchers demanded that he step down.

Earlier in the day, huge demonstrations rocked the country's biggest city, Sao Paulo. More than 200,000 protesters packed the streets calling for Mr. Collor's resignation. Tens of thousands also took to the streets

in Rio De Janeiro, Belo Horizonte and Curitiba.

The 200-page report issued Monday by a congressional committee found the president had profited in a government corruption scandal.

It said Mr. Collor and his family received millions of dollars from an influence-peddling racket run by a friend and cited evidence that would allow impeachment proceedings to begin.

As the political crisis deepened, Mr. Collor's cabinet pledged loyalty to the president's administration.

Allen, Farrow agree to halt war of words

NEW YORK (R) — Woody Allen and Mia Farrow met face-to-face Tuesday for the first time in their bitter custody fight after a court hearing started the official battle for their three children.

Supporters of both sides said the 56-year-old filmmaker and his former leading lady met privately with Judge Phyllis Gangel-Jacob for nearly three hours and agreed to halt the war of words that has marked their nearly two-week-old public dispute.

The two were said to be concerned the dispute — marked by charges and counter-charges —

would become a circus and threaten the mental health of their children.

In a court hearing earlier Tuesday, which was open to the public, a lawyer for Farrow asked Manhattan Supreme Court Judge Gangel-Jacob to deny Allen custody of the children, charging the filmmaker had taken pornographic photographs of Farrow's grown adopted daughter Soon-Yi Farrow Frevin.

The judge refused to look at the pictures. Allen has admitted having an affair with Soon-Yi, believed to

be 21, but denies accusations by the Farrow camp that he sexually molested Dylan, a daughter he adopted with Farrow.

He has admitted he took nude photos of Soon-Yi but said they were at her request because she was interested in a career in modelling.

Allen filed a lawsuit on Aug. 13 seeking custody of the two adopted children he has with Farrow, Moses, 14, and Dylan, seven, as well as their natural son, Satchel, four. He has not seen the three children since early this month.

U.S. veterans cheer Bush, Clinton

CHICAGO (R) — President George Bush and Bill Clinton both won cheers from the largest U.S. military veterans group Tuesday. Mr. Bush presented himself as a comrade-in-arms while his Democratic challenger begged for understanding on why he dodged service during the Vietnam war.

After appearances two hours apart before the annual convention of the American Legion, Mr. Bush, a decorated World War II combat pilot, left with a legion medal around his neck.

The Arkansas governor, who is challenging Mr. Bush for the White House in the Nov. 3 election, did not get a medal. But he did draw praise for promising a house-cleaning at the Department of Veterans Affairs, whose chief, Edward Derwinski, is not well liked by the veterans.

"It's really a matter of which party you put to go with. Mr. Clinton put his speech over a little better than the president," remarked Joe Murphy, chairman of the convention and a past commander.

Mr. Clinton, he added, did "very well" in confronting the issue of his lack of military service.

The Democratic candidate confronted the military service issue directly, saying: "You know that

I never served in the military. You know that I opposed the war in Vietnam."

"But I want you to know this: I was never against the heroic men who served in that war. I honoured your service then and I honour it still," said Mr. Clinton, who was studying at Britain's Oxford University when he was first drafted in 1969.

When he decided to get out of a reserve officers training programme and take his chances with the draft lottery, Mr. Clinton said, he was relieved to draw a high number "not because I didn't want to serve my country, but because I believed so strongly that our policy in Vietnam was wrong."

"I still believe that. It divided me because of what happened 23 years ago, that's your right and I respect that. But it is my hope that you will cast your vote while looking towards the future," Mr. Clinton added.

Mr. Bush, introduced as a "true comrade-in-arms," told of going off to World War II at the age of 18, where he was shot down during a combat mission in the Pacific. He told the veterans "the bond we share links us."

promised the "fullest possible accounting" for all those still listed as missing in action or prisoners of war. He also promised to maintain the "best-trained, best-led fighting forces in the world" to preserve peace.

Both men were interrupted by applause that ranged from polite to strong. Mr. Bush drew a warm reaction when he defended his decision not to invade Baghdad to try to eliminate Iraqi President Saddam Hussein during the Gulf war.

The United States, he said, is "not in the slaughter business... a commander-in-chief has to know when to consolidate his gains."

Mr. Bush emphasised his leadership experience, something that appears to have helped him draw within striking distance of Mr. Clinton since the Republican national convention in Houston.

An ABC News poll said 42 per cent of likely voters favoured Mr. Bush compared to 48 per cent for Mr. Clinton. The same poll in early August showed Mr. Bush with only 35 per cent support to Mr. Clinton's 61 per cent.

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Man allegedly pocketed money rather than burn it

LONDON (R) — A former Bank of England worker accused of stealing more than £150,000 (almost \$300,000) in old bank notes rather than burn them was committed for trial by London magistrates. Kevin Winwright, 33, was ordered to stand trial on charges of taking the used notes from the Central Bank Printing Works. It followed a police surveillance operation into the alleged disappearance of notes taken out of circulation.

Cutlery-eating burglar deemed mentally fit

LINCOLN, England (R) — A British burglar with an obsession for eating cutlery was jailed after psychiatrists decided he was mentally fit, court officials said. Allison Johnson, who was sentenced to four years, has eight forks in his stomach and has had 30 previous operations to remove cutlery. His lawyer said Mr. Johnson, 47, had only about a year to live. He was in constant pain and had difficulties eating but had been warned he could die earlier if he had another operation. Lawyer Adrian Robinson said Johnson should not be sent back to prison on two charges of breaking into houses and holding their occupants at knifepoint while demanding a drink. "He has been told he has about a year to live. The cutlery swallowing and inability to stay away from alcohol comes from his lack of self-esteem," Mr. Robinson told the court in Lincoln, central England. But psychiatric reports ordered by the court said Mr. Johnson did not suffer from any mental illness.

Elvis suit fetches thousands at auction

LONDON (R) — A cream-studded suit worn by Elvis Presley at Las Vegas was sold at auction £13,000 (\$25,000). But the singer's Cadillac with a personalised number plate failed to reach its reserve price. Presley's 1972 outfit with bell bottom flares and cape was bought at a London pop memorabilia auction by the Memphis Museum, Tennessee. Several other items went unsold as they failed to realise their estimates. Presley's 1971 Cadillac Sedan bearing the number plate Elvis 1 was expected to reach up to £50,000 (\$98,000). A collection of Beatles memorabilia estimated to fetch £25,000 (\$49,000) also failed to attract sufficiently high bids.

Keep the change... in condoms

MOSCOW (R) — Shopkeepers who run short of small change in the Russian port of Severomorsk have found a novel solution: they give their customers condoms instead. Reports from the northern city Tuesday said newspaper kiosks had started using contraceptives as small change — particularly for soldiers — instead of more traditional alternatives like bus tickets, sweets or tiny packets of salt. It was not clear whether the kiosk owners were trying to promote safe sex or simply getting rid of excess stock. Russian television twined the report with news that a poultry factory in the Siberian region of Buryatia had started paying its workers in eggs. "We really do live in a unique country," a newspaper commented.

Stranded Russian seamen want to sell ship for pay

SUVA, Fiji (R) — Fifty-six Russian sailors stranded on a fishing trawler in Fiji since July will apply this week to arrest their ship and sell it to recover the nine months' wages owed to them. Lawyer Miles Johnson, acting for the crew, told Reuters he would issue a writ arresting the ship in preparation for sale because the new owner, a Russian named Alek Kozlov who lives in Australia, had disappeared. "The crew are in rather dire straits," Johnson told Reuters. "They have very little fuel to keep the ship running and they've got a hold full of fish they can't touch." Ship's master Captain Boris "Klimenko" said the crew of the 3,300-tonne Academic Knipovich — 52 seamen and four female stewards — are owed \$133,587 for wages, expenses and Panama Canal fees. He said the trawler ran out of money and could not feed the crew or buy the fuel to run the generators which keep the ship's 30 tonnes of fish refrigerated. The trawler has relied on charities for food and fuel.

65 policemen hurt in fresh German riots

ROSTOCK, Germany (R) Sixty-five policemen were injured and 58 people were arrested in the fourth successive night of rioting violence in the east German city of Rostock, police said Wednesday.

Fighting resumed after a football match Tuesday night as gangs assembled near an abandoned hostel for foreign refugees and pelted police with paving stones and bottles.

It took more than 1,000 policemen using tear gas and water cannon around four hours to clear the streets of up to 700

rioters. Police spokesman Gunnar Maechler said the youths arrested came from all over Germany and the rioting was expected to continue.

"The town has become a gathering point for the extreme right from all over the country," he told Reuters.

Mr. Maechler said even seasoned riot police from Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein were shocked by the brutality of the rioters.

Tuesday's arrests bring the number detained since the rioting

began Saturday to more than 250. Most have been freed pending possible charges.

The rioting began Saturday when neo-Nazi gangs attacked the hostel occupied by about 200 Romanian gypsies who were later evacuated.

The worst attacks were Monday night when gangs firebombed the building after a controversial police decision to pull back temporarily.

Dozens of refugees and a German television team trapped inside narrowly escaped death.

Ottawa seeks quick ratification of Quebec unity deal

OTTAWA (R) — Canada's Conservative government wants to ratify the national unity deal struck last week with Quebec as soon as possible before critics pull the constitutional reform pact apart, officials said Tuesday.

The accord is the most important overhaul of Canada's federal system since the country was born 125 years ago and seeks to share out powers with all 10 provinces to try to meet French-speaking Quebec's demands for more autonomy.

But Quebec separatists predictably denounced the deal and called on Quebecers to reject renewed federalism with Ottawa in a referendum scheduled for late October. Right-wing western leaders have attacked it as too good a deal for Quebec.

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney was expected to meet with his cabinet Wednesday and with provincial leaders in Charlotte-town Thursday to discuss how best to get Canadians to approve the reforms. He is expected to call a national referendum.

The new deal grants Canada's half-million natives and Eskimos self-rule and limits the wide powers wanted by Quebec to exclusive provincial jurisdiction over mining, forestry, tourism, housing, recreation and urban affairs.

Federal spending powers are curbed in other areas, but Ottawa maintains a strong role in social programmes.

The reforms, which must still be ratified by parliament and

provincial legislatures, protect Quebec's culture and political power by guaranteeing it for good 25 per cent of the seats in the House of Commons.

In return, western Canada got equal representation in an elected Senate with limited powers to block legislation.

Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa has won most of the support of his cabinet and party caucus for the constitutional deal, government and party officials said Tuesday. He emerged triumphant late Monday after a long day of meetings held to sell the deal.

Support of the cabinet and caucus are considered key for Mr. Bourassa, whose next hurdle will come this weekend when he addresses a special Liberal Party

convention in Quebec City to revamp party policy.

Besides Quebec, Alberta and British Columbia, the two western provinces most unsatisfied with the parliamentary reforms, are also bound by law to hold referendums, increasing the dangers of the accord falling through.

An Ontario government official said a federal vote avoided these pitfalls by asking all Canadians the same question on the same day. It would also allow federal ministers to campaign for its approval in Quebec.

A poll published by the Montreal daily La Presse said 37 per cent of Quebecers said they would vote against the new deal, 30 per cent were for it and 33 per cent were not sure.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Black S. African policeman kills 8

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A black South African policeman facing a rape investigation gunned down eight people, including four black colleagues and his white police commander, Tuesday and then shot himself in the head. A police statement said Constable L. S. Hasebeng was under investigation for the alleged rape of the daughter of a fellow policeman at the southern Orange Free State town of Goedemoed. Police said Hasebeng killed four black policemen, two young women, a four-year-old girl and the white commander of his police station, warrant officer C.E. Schutte, during an hour-long dawn rampage. The killer started his death spree at a house for single policemen, then moved to married quarters and finally the police station, all within a sprawling prison complex at Goedemoed.

Diana's "mystery admirer" named

LONDON (R) — Britain's royalty-obsessed tabloid newspapers Wednesday named an old friend of Princess Diana as the male admirer quoted in a much-publicised telephone "love chat" attributed to the future queen. The newspapers agreed the so-called "Diamante" tape was probably genuine and said the man who blew her kisses down the telephone had to be James Gilbey. The tape recording, from which large excerpts were published Tuesday, was initially met with some doubts about the authenticity of the 20-minute telephone conversation and fears that it could be an elaborate hoax. But most tabloids Wednesday decided that the woman was the glamorous wife of Prince Charles, heir to the throne, and that her admirer was Gilbey, a 35-year-old bachelor and former car dealer turned marketing executive. If proved genuine, the tape could further embarrass Britain's royal family still reeling from a damaging scandal over pictures of a topless Duchess of York on the French Riviera with an American millionaire. The Sun newspaper, which first published details from the tape, said the mystery man must be Gilbey because he fitted exactly the profile which emerged from the telephone conversation — right down to his age and birth sign. Even the Sun's arch rival the Daily Mirror admitted the tape was "almost certainly genuine."

Ramos pushes peace drive

MANILA (R) — Philippine President Fidel Ramos boosted his peace campaign Tuesday by ordering the temporary release from jail of 21 ranking rebels, including two hardline Communist leaders. Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon told reporters the move was part of Gen. Ramos' pledge to seek a reconciliation with all rebel groups and unify the fractious South East Asian country. Gen. Ramos, who took office eight weeks ago, ordered the release of 16 rebel military officers linked to comp attempts and five alleged officers of the banned Communist Party, which is

waging a 23-year insurgency. The dissident soldiers included three colonels, six majors and six other lower-ranked officers.

Pakistani officer killed in fight

BOMBAY, India (AP) — India's defence minister says a Pakistani brigadier general died this month when Indian forces shot down a helicopter intruding into Indian air space. The incident came shortly before Pakistan's senior diplomat, Foreign Secretary Shahryar Khan, began talks in New Delhi on Aug. 17 on building mutual confidence and alleviating border tensions. Speaking to reporters Tuesday, Defence Minister Sharad Pawar said tensions along the border had eased following the high-level talks, the sixth round by the two countries in the last two years. Mr. Pawar said the helicopter was hit as it overflew the Indian border and crashed just inside Pakistani territory. He did not say how India learned that a brigadier general had been killed. The series of clashes in early August went beyond the routine exchanges of small arms fire and artillery shelling that periodically erupt along the border. Mr. Pawar said Pakistan took heavier casualties than India, but he gave no figures.

Bush wants chemical arms ban this year

CHICAGO (R) — President George Bush said he hopes all the countries of the world will approve a treaty by the end of the year banning production, possession and use of chemical weapons. "It is my hope, it is my aim that before this year is out, the nations of the world will unite to ban chemical weapons, to banish this scourge from the face of the earth," Mr. Bush told a meeting of the American Legion of war veterans. Negotiators for the 39-nation conference on disarmament completed the draft treaty in Geneva this month and presidents and premiers plan a signing ceremony in Paris late this year or early next.

U.N. finds 2 secret jails in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH (R) — United Nations investigators have freed 12 prisoners held by the Phnom Penh government in a secret jail in western Cambodia, a U.N. official said Wednesday. Officers of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia mandated to look into human rights abuses and national security found two prisons in the Battambang area "not previously known to UNTAC," the official said. Twelve prisoners were found in one jail and released over the weekend. The second centre was found to be empty. The official would not comment on the prisoners' status. The government claims to have released all genuine political prisoners, as opposed to criminals, under the Cambodian peace pact signed last October. He said UNTAC was looking for other such jails throughout the country and was investigating conditions inside and the reason why they were set up.

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